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JOHN BULL

Vol. X. No. 257. SATURDAY, MAY 6, 1911. ONE PENNY.

[Registered at the G.P.O. as a Newspaper.]

The world is a bundle of hay;
Mankind are the asses who pull;
Each tugs it a different way,
And the greatest of all is John Bull

—BYRON.

Edited by
HORATIO BOTTOMLEY.

"JOHN BULL'S"
Companion Publications.

"MRS. BULL"

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ONE PENNY.

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The following claims have been received for our issue of March 25th:—

LOUIS P. DUNNING, 35, Redhall Terrace, Hammersmith, W. No. 180,731. March 25th.

CHARLES DAVIES, 3, Donald Street, Tylorstown, Rhondda. No. 451,045. March 25th.

A. SALMONS, 19, Ranwell Street, Bow, E. No. 25,395. March 25th, 1911.

The following are the fifty numbers for our issue of April 8th:—

11838	160477	239641	386797	524185
13672	164350	247984	397559	533921
35754	167940	251422	424327	543151
43773	176168	257133	448029	548985
75617	197687	273649	449833	552218
95591	203017	276738	459981	558418
118474	205419	312349	460878	603492
143941	219818	333869	475672	620088
148825	221688	343185	480112	626572
158812	229846	352701	512121	634452

INITIAL NOUGHTS SHOULD BE DISREGARDED, BUT FINAL ONES ARE, OF COURSE, RECKONED.

THE FIFTY NUMBERS IN RESPECT OF THIS WEEK WILL BE ANNOUNCED IN OUR ISSUE DATED JUNE 3RD (PUBLISHED JUNE 1ST).

The John Bull League.

APPLICATION FOR MEMBERSHIP.

The General Secretary,
93, Long Acre, London, W.C.

Please enrol me as a Member and send me a Membership Badge, for which I enclose P.O. for 6d.

Name .....

Address .....

....

JOHN BULL.

Politics without Party—Criticism without Cant;
Without Fear or Favour, Rancour or Rant.

Vol. X. No. 257. Saturday, May 6th, 1911. One Penny.

IMPORTANT NOTICE.

Letters must be addressed to the Editor or the Publisher, at 93, Long Acre, London, W.C., according to whether they relate to Editorial or Business matters.
All editorial inquiries MUST BE MADE BY LETTER.

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TO READERS ABROAD.

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The John Bull League.

EDINBURGH AND DISTRICT BRANCH.

A GRAND SMOKING CONCERT
WILL BE HELD AT
THE CATHEDRAL HOTEL, COCKBURN STREET, EDINBURGH,
FRIDAY, MAY 5th, at 7.30 p.m.

A limited number of reserve tickets (complimentary) can be obtained from the Hon. Local Secretary, Mr. W. T. Kelly, of 53, George Street.

ABERDEEN BRANCH.

AN OPEN MEETING
WILL BE HELD AT THE
VEGETARIAN CAFE, BROAD STREET, ABERDEEN,
TUESDAY, MAY 9th, at 8 p.m.

Members and friends cordially invited.

BRISTOL BRANCH.

A GRAND CONCERT AND OPEN MEETING
WILL BE HELD AT
HAMILTON'S ROOMS, PARK STREET,
FRIDAY, MAY 12th, at 7.30 p.m.
MR. G. BROWN (Bristol)
will deliver an address on
"THE OBJECTS OF THE LEAGUE."

Doors open at 7 p.m. Admission Free.
A limited number of reserve tickets (complimentary) can be obtained from the Hon. Local Secretary, Mr. W. P. Frankham, The College, Westbury-on-Trym.

THE WORLD, THE FLESH, AND THE DEVIL.

[The Editor discourses upon passing events and topics of the day.]

The Constitutional Crisis.

The Parliament Bill will not pass the House of Lords; the King will not create the threatened army of new Peers; Clause I. (abolishing the Financial Veto) will be agreed to—and there will be Conference and Compromise on Clause II.

GOVERNMENT CHANGES.

Several changes are imminent. Two of them will be warmly welcomed—by all parties.

MR. LLOYD GEORGE.

The mystery deepens. There are rumours that Mr. Burns may, after all, take charge of the State Insurance Bill.

A BAD APPOINTMENT.

The pitchforking of Sir E. J. Soares into the position of Assistant-Comptroller of the National Debt Commission Office is a palpable "job," and, coming on the top of several other party appointments to paid offices, has done the Government much harm in the country. But *we* do not complain. Every such incident hastens the advent of the Business Government.

UNCLAIMED BANK BALANCES.

We shall make a big effort this session to obtain the appointment of that much delayed Select Committee to enquire into this subject. If the Chancellor would only turn his attention to the hen roosts hidden in the vaults of the bankers, he could soon give us not only Old, but also Middle-Age Pensions!

A LEGAL IRONY.

Rather funny that *we* should be the *Plaintiffs* and the Prudential Company the *Defendants* in a libel action, isn't it? Most people thought it would be the other way about. Another proof that public opinion is not always correct.

SIR EDWARD CARSON.

Everybody will regret to learn that the health of this brilliant and charming advocate is in such an unsatisfactory state that he contemplates at an early date taking a complete rest from all legal and political work, and that his return to either the Courts or the House of Commons will depend entirely upon the result of the treatment—probably at a German "cure" place—which he has decided to undergo. With Austen Chamberlain and Sir Edward ill, and "F. E." buried in briefs, Mr. Balfour is indeed to be condoled with. And *he* is not too strong. Verily all things are tending towards the break up of the old Party system.

The Temple Balsall Bucket.

We asked the President of the Board of Education and the President of the Local Government Board about the facilities afforded for kicking the bucket by the tainted water-supply at Lady Katherine Leveson's School, Temple Balsall. Mr. Burns replied that he understood the question of providing a proper water supply was now receiving the serious consideration of a special committee, whilst Mr. Acland told us that his chief was making further enquiry, and that the question had been under consideration in connection with plans for the improvement of the premises. It is, of course, very pleasant for children, who have been risking typhoid for over a year and are still quaffing corpse-water out of a bucket, that serious consideration and further enquiry are in the air. But why cannot so simple a matter be treated with business promptitude?

His Murtherous Majesty.

We thought so. The Emperor of Austria has thought better of his invitation to Peter the (Servian) Painter. For one thing, the Servians had begun to realise that they had nothing to gain and much to lose by the rumoured visit, and they started a press campaign which provoked recriminations at Vienna, and more especially at Budapesth. Like most beggars on horse-back, Peter is ready to sell anything or anybody for social recognition. No doubt it would have been useful for Austria to harness Servia once more to her chariot-wheels, but Francis Joseph had to draw the line at a drunkard at his festive board.

Love, the Conqueror.

In the *Daily Mail* "Personal" column last week appeared the following pathetic appeal:—

> Nell.—Come back to me. Have altered will and left you everything.—*Harry.*

We understand that Nell, unable any longer to resist the promptings of her passionate attachment, hurried back to Harry—by the first available train. Where there's a *will* there's a way.

Edinburgh, Killjoys, and Icecream.

The Edinburgh Free Church Synod is still worrying itself and other people about those dens of iniquity, the ice-cream shops of the city. What horrible things happen in these places of refreshment on Sunday afternoons, when the poorer classes of the people seem to use them most, is to us a mystery. Even in Edinburgh you cannot have a drunken orgie on ice-cream, or on cakes and pop, so we can only imagine that the Synod has been disturbed in its special conception of what the Scottish Sawbath ought to be, by the occasional laughter of young men and women during the consumption of teetotal refreshment. In that case, the Synod had better move a resolution for the abolition of laughing on Sundays. Perhaps it could induce Messrs. Samuel, Masterman and Simon to back a Bill with this object.

"A Disgrace to Devonport."

The Vicar of St. Stephen's, Devonport, denounced from his pulpit the demonstration and torchlight procession held "on the last day in Holy Week" to celebrate the return of the senior Member of Parliament for the Borough, Sir John Jackson. He called it "a scandal to Churchmen" and "a disgrace to Devonport." As the last day in Holy Week was Saturday, 15th April, the rev. gentleman's language is absurdly exaggerated. If he never does anything on the last day in Holy Week worse than join a torchlight procession, it is highly improbable that his immortal soul will be put in peril.

Getting on in Colwyn.

Here is an advertisement from a Welsh paper: "The Pier Pavilion, Colwyn Bay.—Grand Church Parade, Sunday Next, April 23rd, 1911.—The very latest Fashions will be introduced on the Pier, including the Harem Skirt, and the Latest Productions in Chic Millinery." Chic millinery in a church parade is what one expects, but the harem skirt is rather too much of a Continental Sunday for a Welsh watering-place. If this sort of thing occurs again, we shall report the matter to Mrs. Lloyd George.

Adding Insult to Injury.

We have received from Messrs. James Evans and Co., Foundry Engineers, of 10, Bush Lane, Cannon Street, E.C., particulars of a swindle which must be annoying to them. A man goes round with samples of very good flannels, towels, etc., which he offers at ridiculously low prices for payment on delivery. As soon as he has made a good impression, he produces two or three dress-lengths, which he explains are his own perquisites, and which he can therefore sell on the spot. The price includes linings and trimmings, which are to be forwarded with the towels and flannels from "Messrs. J. Evans and Co., of Fore Street, and Chiswell Street, E.C." Needless to say, no linings, trimmings, towels or flannels are sent. When the victims write to complain, their letters are marked "Not known Fore Street," and are sent on to Messrs. J. Evans at Bush Lane, though they know nothing of their fraudulent namesakes. An amusing incident occurred when the canvasser actually tried to work his trick at the private residence of a representative of the real James Evans and Co.

Vicarious Sanctity.

Tottenham and Wood Green Hospital authorities are evidently determined to advertise their special sanctity in observing the Sabbath Day to keep it holy. The former have declined to accept over £1,000, which was offered them as the profits of Sunday cinematograph shows, and the latter have gone out of their way to announce that they will not accept funds from such tainted sources. If these people were private individuals denying themselves something in obedience to the dictates of their consciences, we should have nothing to say to them. But this is merely vicarious sanctity. They occupy their positions as trustees for the sick and suffering, whom they have no right to deprive of possible benefits in order to parade their own puritanical prejudices. We trust that anyone who may be tempted to subscribe to either of these institutions will remember that he is merely making good a part of the amount wantonly rejected as a demonstration of antiquated imbecility.

A Chance of Immortality.

The promoters of the Festival of Empire at the Crystal Palace seem to possess a remarkable amount of impudence, or at least unusual credulity as to the limits of our good-nature. We have received a circular from them inviting us to become honorary mummers and prance about in a pageant at no less than twelve different performances. We are to provide our own costumes and are graciously informed that they will remain our property and afford us satisfaction as a souvenir. For our part, however, we have no temptation to masquerade as settlers arriving in South Africa in 1820, and we are unmoved by the fact that "the profits will be devoted to the King Edward VII. Hospital Fund." Why, we might even be contributing indirectly to the Sabbatarian heresies of the Tottenham and Wood Green Hospitals, or encouraging the torture of rabbits and guinea-pigs.

SUGAR BY POSTCARD.

"Cecil Worth absent ill, April 6th and 7th, 1911," wrote a Bristol business man on a postcard to his son's school-teacher. Here is the reply. "Bristol Education Committee, Eastville Street, Bristol, April 10th, 1911. Dear Sir,—Kindly find enclosed your p.c. respecting your son's absence. Miss Robinson informs me that she always receives excuses from you in similar abrupt tones. I really do not think your replies are sent slightingly, but a 'Dear Sir' or 'Dear Madam' and a nicely appended excuse would be so much appreciated by the recipient. Yours sincerely, Jas. Hy. Machin." One does not usually put epistolary sugar on a postcard, and this one was addressed, not to "Miss Robinson," but to Mr. Machin, who should confine his pedagogy to his school.

EQUAL JUSTICE FOR AUTHORS AND INVENTORS.

A poor inventor writes: "Can you explain why everyone to-day is demanding copyright protection for authors and no one has a word to say in favour of justice for inventors? An author only needs brains, pens, ink and paper, and, if he can get a publisher, or publishes his book himself, the copyright under the proposed new Act is vested in him, his heirs and assigns, for the whole of his life and fifty years after his death. An entry at Stationers' Hall, costing 5s., is the only fee he must pay, and he need not pay this unless he wishes to bring an action against someone for infringement of copyright. It is far different with the inventor. His product may cost thousands of pounds (as many of the late Lord Masham's inventions did), but *he* is not protected for all his life and fifty years afterwards. He has to pay for provisional protection, patent agents' searches, and heavy fees on each patent, and his invention is his for only fourteen years. Should he be successful, he is punished by an extra income tax of 1s. 4d. in the £, because the inventor's profits are held by the Income Tax Department to be 'unearned,' whilst the author's profits are 'earned,' and pay only 9d.! I do not desire to write disparagingly of authors, but if every line they have written were destroyed to-morrow, the world would get along very well without them. But where would civilisation be without the work of the inventor? Samuel Crompton made Lancashire's industry, and Trevethick made our railway system. What would England be without its Watts, Stephensons, Perkins, Listers, and the thousands of martyrs for human progress whose murdered brains and crushed hopes have paved the path of our commercial supremacy? Our copyright laws may be bad, but the laws regarding inventions are nothing short of robbery." We think we can explain matters to our correspondent. The authors have a society to protect their interests, and they have behind them the power of the Press—in which they "gas" about England's greatness, whilst inventors make it!

A MAN AND WOMAN TRAP.

We wonder whether the following advertisement has attracted many applicants:—

> REQUIRED, MANAGER and WIFE, used to apartment or boarding house. Salary 30s. weekly, free living rooms. Investment of £50 required (returnable), which carries share of profits.

It appears from time to time with a different *nom de guerre*, such as "Principal," "Owner," etc., so perhaps there is not a wild rush to take advantage of it. Perhaps, on the other hand, it has proved profitable enough to deserve frequent repetition. We hesitate to believe this, as there cannot surely be many working people willing or able to pull out £50 on the off chance of continuing to earn 30s. a week. In any case we think it is high time that the police should take in hand such flat-catching traps.

SALFORD AND A STIPENDIARY.

It follows from their knowledge of the law and training at the bar that stipendiary magistrates are, on the whole, much more satisfactory than the local justices who decorate the Commission of the Peace. And Salford's stipendiary has done so well that we were amazed to notice his retirement being made the occasion of a recommendation by the General Purposes Committee of the Council that the post should remain unfilled. The Council has, however, decided to appoint a successor to Mr. Makinson, though the majority by which the recommendation was rejected was only two. Alderman Rudman "did not see why the Council should not give their numerous magistrates an opportunity of seeing how they could carry on the work of the courts." The administration of justice is not a business which any community should hand over to amateurs.

DEAR OLD DAD!

Another young gentleman appears to be in the way of well doing, all on account of father, Mr. Victor Midgley having been elected a Relieving Officer by the Dewsbury Board of Guardians, among whom Mr. Midgley, senr., sits as a member. As the poet has it, "Little deeds of kindness, little words of love, help to make earth happy, like the heaven above."

THE VAGARIES OF VACCINATORS.

The medical profession is a much stronger corporation or combine than many people imagine. The law about vaccination is that, even in the case of infants, parents with conscientious objections are entitled to obtain certificates of exemption, but we all know that obstacles and insolence are interposed by the authorities. Now it seems that the friends of the fraternity are going a step further. A boy of 12, who had been for sixteen days among small-pox patients without catching the disease, was taken away from his home and vaccinated, in spite of all his father's protests. This is a gross and scandalous violation of the law, and we trust that money may be forthcoming to enable the father of the boy to take proceedings against the perpetrators of so monstrous an assault. The jury certainly ought to award thumping damages. Meanwhile, it is instructive to note Mr. John Burns' statement that, out of 44 cases in the recent outbreak, at least 34 had been vaccinated. Does not this justify the relegation of vaccination to the category of the exploded myths of the early-Victorian era? We simply ask the question—being neither medical experts nor statistical idolaters.

PREDATORY PEDAGOGUES.

Many parents will probably protest against the abnormally long holidays which many public schools are arranging in honour of the Coronation. Rugby, for instance, interrupts the boys' studies and sends them home for a week in June. This means thousands of pounds into all the house-masters' pockets. Pedagogues are always only too ready to seize any opportunity to shirk their duties and add to their incomes—two objects which are not often attainable together. Coronation holidays by all means, but when house-masters are saved a week's work and a week's board for hundreds of boys, they ought to deduct a substantial fraction of their fees.

THE MOST PHOTOGRAPHED LITERARY MAN.

Mr. Hall Caine's enemies are untiring in their efforts to hurt his fame. They now assert that Victor Hugo's photo is the most in demand, and has been the greatest success among men of letters. Our advice to Mr. Hall Caine is the same as was given to the great dramatist Cumberland: "Go on producing masterpieces, and you will be read when Shakespeare is forgotten." Of course, some envious writer may say "But not till then."

Desperate Duns.

Tradesmen ought not to worry their customers for money! One of our readers tells us how he contracted a small debt with his butcher and was not able to meet it at once. Thereupon the butcher caused great annoyance by calling several times a day, looking through the window and breaking the bell. The proper course would have been to give the man in charge for damage and provoking a breach of the peace. If tradesmen want their money and cannot obtain it otherwise, the County Court is always open to them; and there are no delays or expenses! Clearly the time has come for the impecunious to band themselves together in a Customers' Defence League—something on the lines of the Trade Protection Society. Confidential reports would be sent to all the members, black-listing all duns and other importunate purveyors, and a special fund might be founded to contribute towards the cost of moonlight flitting!

A Wimbledon Wail.

Far be it from us to discourage humour, but when it comes to disappointing people who consider themselves entitled to money, it savours almost of a bad joke. The proprietors of the skating-rink at Worple Road, Wimbledon, announced a gymkhana and club benefit, one of the items being a tug of war, the attraction of which was that "each member of the winning team will receive a prize worth one guinea." We can picture to ourselves how proud and delighted the victors were with their prowess, how they expanded their chests and wreathed themselves in smiles as they came up to receive their guerdon from his Worship the Mayor of Wimbledon, J. M. Bathgate, Esquire, President of the Wimbledon Rink Hockey Club. But their pride must have had a fall or at least a slight stumble when his Worship, with a merry twinkle in his eye, proceeded to present each of them with a box of Beecham's Pills. We are not sure that it would not have been an amusing counter-joke to sue the president and committee of the club for the difference between one guinea and the intrinsic value of the pills. *There* would be a fine question for a jury!

Advocacy By Song.

The trial of a woman for murder in Texas, and her acquittal (although her guilt was proved up to the hilt), simply because her counsel struck a note of originality, and played upon the sloppy sentiment of the jury, opens out endless possibilities. The *New York Sun* tells us that "counsel closed a powerful argument by singing to the jury in a tear-choked voice, 'Home Sweet Home.' The song trembled on his lips and brought tears to the eyes of all the jurors, the defendant, and the crowd which was packed in the room." We must commence to take singing lessons!

The Minimum Wage.

Mr. Bill Crooks's proposal that a general minimum wage of 30s. a week for every adult worker should be established by law is very delightful in its way, no doubt, but the way seems that of the blind man. A minimum wage of 30s. for everybody pre-supposes the addendum, "whether he earns it or not," and to compel every employer to pay 30s. a week to people who don't earn it, and don't intend to earn it, is an absurdity. If a man has to pay more, he has to charge more; and the result will probably be that the difference between the lowest competitive wage and the proposed fixed compulsory minimum would be swallowed up in the increased cost of everything which the worker consumes. These socialistic schemes for making things delightfully comfy for everybody by Act of Parliament doubtless have their attraction for some people, but if we are to keep the old ship afloat it is evident we must really have some sort of ballast in the hold.

Legal Jargon.

We recently commented upon the archaic character of Scotch legal phraseology. A Glasgow reader now sends a letter which he has just received from his solicitor. Here it is:—

> This case called on 24th March, when it was ascertained that the Defender had closed his premises against delivery of the Citation, this apparently being done to get the case delayed into the Easter recess. I, however, moved his Lordship to grant Warrant in the circumstances for re-service, which he did, and restricted the Inducíæ to six days. I, on the same day, had the Writ re-served by Sheriff Officer, and the case called yesterday, when his Lordship granted Decree in respect of "no appearance," so that the Defender's tactics for obtaining lengthened delay failed, but from an interview I have had with my Sheriff Officer, who has known the Defender for the last twenty years, I am afraid I shall experience some difficulty in recovering amount sued for. I am entitled to obtain Extract to-day week, when I shall at once enforce same.

As we previously remarked, this is all part of the game—to impress the lay mind with the mystery of the Law.

Tuck-in.

We ventilate so many complaints against swindling firms that a little variety may well be afforded by voicing a grumble about one which enjoys well-deserved repute. It appears that Messrs. Raphael Tuck and Co. extensively advertised a number of prizes for the best album of "Oilette" post-cards sent in for competition. The judges were eminent men, and there was nothing on the surface to arouse the least suspicion. The first prize was £100; among the others were a number of six guineas (value), and some of £5 cash. One of our correspondents, after expending several pounds on the preparation of an album, was awarded one of the so-called six-guinea prizes. He received a notice from Messrs. Tuck and Co., informing him of his luck and enclosing a list of engravings from which to choose. Not wanting an engraving, he offered to take the next lower prize, viz., £5 cash. This being refused, he offered to take £2 instead of the engraving, then £1, but each offer was refused. Eventually, he chose one of the engravings and tried to sell it to the principal art shops in Brighton and Worthing for 10s., but without success. We agree with him that it was distinctly disappointing not to be able to get even 10s. for a prize which took precedence of £5 in cash, and we imagine that most people will hesitate about preparing expensive albums for any of Messrs. Tuck's future competitions.

Free Passages for Railway Workers to Australia.

It is stated that the Labour Government of South Australia requires 1,000 railway workers, and will pay their passages. This may interest some of the workers on the Cambrian Railway, who receive 15s. per week, rising to 18s., for 10 hours' work daily, or the Great Western platelayers, who, after four years' service, get 19s. per week. We do not know what the wages are on South Australia's railways, but they can scarcely be as bad as that.

Peckham for Piety.

At a Christian Endeavour rally at Luton, the Rev. C. W. Screech, of the Peckham Rye Tabernacle, told his audience that Peckham had always been known as "poor but pious Peckham." We are as glad it is pious as we are sorry it is poor, but even Peckham cannot have everything in this world. By the way, the rev. gentleman announces that he will not have anybody who attends whist drives on his Associates' list; and as he probably also bars people who attend theatres, music-halls, and other cheerful entertainments, his list ought to be representative of everything that is unearthly in Peckham. What part did the holy man take in that historic election?

PULLING OUR LEG?

From the *Sunday Times*: "Many interesting curios in the form of Roman pottery ware, tusks of boars, and fossilised remains of other animals have been unearthed during the excavations. The work now in progress does not interfere with the daily routine of the Bank's business. The vaults containing the millons of pounds' worth of unclaimed gold and silver plate and securities remain intact." We never put it quite so high as that!

A DICKENS OF A JOKE.

Mr. Dickens, K.C., got very neatly out of a tongue-twister while cross-examining a witness in the West Bromwich Petition Enquiry. "Who was it asked you to cheap swimneys?" he demanded. On the instant a wave of laughter swept through the court. "My lord," said Mr. Dickens, "I am sorry this happened after lunch." Rather reminds one of the church-warden who invited the fidgetty lady he found wandering up and down the aisle to occupew a pie.

THE AKBAR CASE.

As we have previously stated, the last has not been heard in this matter. It will be remembered that at the time we suspended our articles, Mr. Reynolds, the late Steward-Cook of the Reformatory, was on his trial upon a charge of misappropriation of rations. We commented upon the important incident that the proceedings were commenced the day after his name first appeared in our journal as that of one of our informants —and now we learn, just as we go to press, that the charge has been dismissed. We congratulate Mr. Reynolds upon his vindication.

THE WEEK'S "CHESTNUT":—

She was a young married woman, and her husband had for the first time stayed out all night. Eagerly awaiting some explanation in the morning, and none coming to hand, she rushed to the nearest Post Office, and wired to half-a-dozen of her husband's most intimate chums, asking "Did Tom stay with you last night?"—and, to her astonishment, received in each case the same reply—"Yes"!

"BEHIND WITH HIS BOOK."

'John Bull's" Biscuits.

For placing the following advertisement under the heading "BEANFEASTS"—"*Folkestone.—Young lady of* 23 *wishes to find comfortable home as paying guest in cheerful family. —Reply,*" *etc.*,

THE EVENING NEWS
TAKES THE BISCUIT.

For stating that a concert was held for the benefit of a Walsall lad, "*who some time ago* HAD HIS VIOLIN STOLEN, UPON THE RECOMMENDATION OF MR. GRANVILLE BANTOCK,"

THE WALSALL ADVERTISER
TAKES THE BISCUIT.

For stating in an article entitled "*Eastertide*": "*The Thursday before Good Friday gave early notice of what to expect, for* THE GRASS WENT UP, AND THE VISITORS CAME DOWN IN LARGE NUMBERS,"

THE SOUTHEND TELEGRAPH
TAKES THE BISCUIT.

For stating in its report of a marriage, "*The officiating clergyman at the service at St. John's Church was the Vicar of the parish, Rev. W. A. Wilkinson,* BECOMINGLY ATTIRED IN A DRESS OF WHITE SILK WITH BRIDAL VEIL AND WREATH OF ORANGE BLOSSOMS,"

THE WEST LONDON PRESS (Chelsea)
TAKES THE BISCUIT.

For stating, according to the "*Evening News,*" *in his evidence at the hearing of the East Cork Election Petition, that* "*The bills were torn down* BEFORE THEY WERE UP,"

Mr. JOHN DONOVAN (of Youghal)
TAKES THE BISCUIT.

For stating in its description of his removal to Dartmoor, "*Morrison, who was dressed in a* KHAKI JACKET *and* TROUSERS *with a* GREY CLOTH CAP, SHOOK THEM OFF, *and started shouting so loudly that a crowd quickly gathered,*"

THE YORKSHIRE EVENING POST
TAKES THE BISCUIT.

For stating that "*The Council will not* ACCEPT *the tender of any person or firm who has* WITHDRAWN *the tender after the same has been opened, unless the reasons for* WITHDRAWAL *were satisfactory to the Council,*"

THE CONTRACTOR
TAKES THE BISCUIT.

For stating that "*Five men were injured* YESTERDAY *by the collapse of a temporary wooden staging* THIS EVENING, *at Turnham Green Station,*"

THE PEOPLE
TAKES THE BISCUIT.

For stating that "*Leaving London at* 11.45 *on Tuesday night, he* (*Mr. Balfour*) *reached Dunbar* EARLY ON MONDAY MORNING,"

THE DAILY MAIL
TAKES THE BISCUIT.

For stating that the late Lady Halle "*took part in a concert of chamber music at the Beethoven Hall here only a few weeks ago. Owing to a slight indisposition, however, she was* UNABLE TO APPEAR,"

THE BARNSLEY CHRONICLE
TAKES THE BISCUIT.

For advertising in the "*Reader*" (*Melbourne*): "*By using Saunders' Tonic Lick, Cripples, Impaction, Mad Staggers, Depraved Appetite, in Cattle, Horses, Sheep* CAN BE OBTAINED,"

J. BARTRAM & SON (19, King Street, Melbourne)
TAKE THE BISCUIT.

For stating of the Celtic Football Club that "*they played a drawn game of two goals each last week,*" *and that* "*they have added lustre to their name by passing through the entire competition* (*for the Scottish Cup*) WITHOUT HAVING SO MUCH AS A GOAL SCORED AGAINST THEM,"

THE WEEKLY DISPATCH
TAKES THE BISCUIT.

THE PRUDENTIAL ASSURANCE COMPANY.—VII.

THE COMPANY'S "REPLY."—THE DIRECTORS ANSWER OUR CHARGES WITH PECKSNIFFIAN PLATITUDES.—SOME OF THE SHAREHOLDERS—WE COMMENCE PROCEEDINGS.

Since we commenced our exposure of the methods of the Prudential Company we have been waiting for some official reply from the Directors—and at last it has come. Not, however, in the form of either a Writ for Libel in the Civil Courts, or a Summons in a Criminal Prosecution. It consists of a remarkable circular issued to the Superintendents and Agents of the Company. Evidently the army of insurance journalists who had been called to the rescue—and of whose effusions, together with other inspired press apologies, we have resolutely refused to take notice—have proved unequal to the task of stemming the tide of indignation and reaction aroused by our revelations. Having thus been forced to come out of their shells, this is the best the Directors could do:—

PRUDENTIAL ASSURANCE COMPANY, LIMITED,
HOLBORN BARS, LONDON.
April, 1911.

DEAR SIR,

The unfair criticism of the work of the Company to which Mr. Bottomley has lent the columns of JOHN BULL has probably caused some trouble and annoyance to many members of our staff.

The reputation of a Company whose contracts indicate the approval and support of more than one-third of the population of the United Kingdom and Ireland, will not be seriously affected by criticism in the columns of a journal which has become notorious for its attacks on individuals and institutions well established in the public esteem, but a section of the public, with little experience in estimating the worthlessness of statements drawn largely from prejudiced or tainted sources, is apt to invest them with an authority which is wholly undeserved.

We desire to thank the Staff for their unfailing loyalty to the Company, to which they have given renewed expression in their work and declarations during the past few weeks, and on their behalf we resent most strongly the unworthy attacks to which they have been exposed.

We have no hesitation in submitting their loyalty to a further test in urging them not to imitate the intemperate language of the journal while engaged in refuting the errors which the articles contain; it would be regrettable were any member of the staff to place himself or the Company at a disadvantage by adopting unworthy methods of retaliation.

The system of Industrial Assurance is firmly based in the trust of the people, and its record is one of sustained equity and of ever-increasing liberality.

It is largely owing to your efforts and to those of your colleagues and predecessors that the Prudential has so often been able to take the lead in granting increased benefits to its policy-holders, and such labour as may be necessary to remove misunderstanding in the present day you will cheerfully and successfully undertake and perform.

It is claimed that the operations of the Company have been "unmasked"; you will be able of your sure knowledge and experience to complete the unmasking—a proceeding which, fairly conducted, can result only in increasing the prosperity of the Company, and the satisfaction of its policyholders and representatives.

We are, Dear Sir,
Yours faithfully,
A. C. THOMPSON, } *Joint*
FREDK. SCHOOLING, } *Managers.*

We COMMENCE PROCEEDINGS.

What does this "reply" amount to? Simply this: The Directors dare not challenge our statements in a Court of Law, and attempt to shield themselves behind a barrier of Pecksniffian and Pharisaical platitudes. So far as the attack upon our own *bona-fides* is concerned, we have set the company an example which we think they would be wise to follow, and have served upon them a Writ for Libel. Consequently, we are debarred for the present from discussing the question of how far we have become "notorious" for attacking "individuals and institutions well established in the public esteem"—and how far the Prudential Company is entitled to include itself in the latter category. Nor shall we comment upon the obvious nervousness of the Directors lest; by accident, any of the Superintendents or Agents should refuse to act upon the official view that discretion is the better part of valour, and thus render themselves liable to actions for libel! We simply remind our readers that the principal unchallenged charges brought by us against the Prudential are: (1) That it connives at the obtaining of business, from the poorest section of the community, by fraud and misrepresentation; (2) that many of its policies are illegal and worthless.

The question of the company's own financial position we hope to deal with next week. (We are at the moment busily engaged in the Law Courts in connection with another large institution, once "well established in the public esteem"!) And we shall not be deterred in our criticisms by the fact that prior to our obtaining evidence now in our possession, our Insurance Editor—although mainly in connection with the Ordinary branch of the Prudential's business—was in the habit of expressing his confidence in the position of the Company. Fortunately we are strong enough to be able to admit mistakes when we have made them—just as we are independent enough to do our best, at any risk, to rectify them when we have discovered them.

SOME "PRUDENTIAL" SHAREHOLDERS.

Below we give the names of some of the Shareholders in the Prudential Company, together with their holdings. It will be observed that the list comprises a large sprinkling of "Clerks in Holy Orders"—and we shall be glad to know what these reverend gentlemen have to say to our unrefuted charges against the integrity of the concern in whose often ill-gotten gains they participate.

Harben, Sir Henry, Warnham Lodge, Horsham	4,055
Lancaster, Sir William John, South Lynn, Putney Hill, S.W. ..	2,000
Bird, Rev. George S., The Rectory, Gt. Bookham, Surrey ..	20
Cole, Rev. Marwood A. R. T., 7, Great George St., Park St., Bristol ..	200
Dewey, Thomas Charles, J.P., South Hill Wood, Bromley, Kent ..	5,280
Mills, Joseph Trueman, Stockgrove, Leighton Buzzard .. .. }	50
Mills, John Layton, Tansor Court, Oundle, Northants. .. .. }	
Allanson, Rev. W.V., Cathedral House, Westminster Bridge Rd., S.E. }	182
(*Admor. of J. J. Allanson, deed.*)	160
Norris, Rev. C. L., Chesterton Vicarage, Bicester, Oxfordshire ..	550
Spurr, Edward, The Anchorage, Queen's Road, Wimbledon	
Dewey, Rev. Stanley D., The Rectory, Moreton Hampstead, Devon }	80
Dewey, Marshall, Tcots Wood, Bromley, Kent .. .. .. }	437
Cole, Captain A. Du P. T., 23, Great George St., Park St., Bristol	210
Uridge, A. J. R., Claverham, The Wellands, Lewes, Sussex	
Bostock, Edward Ingram, Horsham, Sussex .. .. .. }	225
Gregory, Philip Spencer, 1, New Square, Lincoln's Inn, W.C. .. }	
Stable, Daniel Wintringham, Holly Lodge, Wanstead, Essex ..	2,048
Wharrie, Mary Woodgate, 10, Ebor Avenue, Hampstead, N.W. ..	1,145
Phillips, Henry Druit, 48, Russell Square, W.C.	2,168
Pett, Victorine, The Grange, Clendon Rd., Toorak, nr. Melbourne	30
Adler, Rev. Hermann Nathan, 6, Craven Hill, Hyde Park, W. ..	3,280
Allanson, Mary E., 29, Narbonne Avenue, Clapham Common, S.W.	1,149
Wharrie, Thomas, J.P., 10, Eton Avenue, Hampstead, N.W. ..	200
Dewey, Thos. C., J.P. (No. 2 ℅), South Hill Wood, Bromley, Kent	40
Moor, Rev. Gerald Henry, Preston Vicarage, Brighton .. .. }	
Moor, Alice Mary, Preston Vicarage, Brighton .. .. .. }	
Boswell, John I., M.D., J.P., Crawley Grange, Newport Pagnell, Bucks.	1,000

Nanhart, Nicholas, 20, Southampton Street, High Holborn, W.C. 410
Dewey, Rev. S. D., The Rectory, Moreton Hampstead, Devon .. 410
Leonard, Edward, Thornhill House, Dulwich Wood Park, Norwood 200
Leonard, Mary Anne, Thornhill House, Dulwich Wood Park, Norwood 112
Roberson, Wm. L., Marazion, Hollingbourne Rd., Herne Hill, S.E.
Giles, Rev. Edward, The Quarry, Lincoln 30
Simmonds, Rev. Mark John, 37, Eaton Place, S.W. .. ..
Benson, Mabel Caroline, 15, Cheyne Gardens, Chelsea, S.W. .. 2,500
Sangster, Charles, M.R.C.S., 148, Lambeth Road, S.E. ..
(*Exors. of J. W. Simmonds, decd.*)
Harben, Mary F., 306, St. James' Court, Buckingham Gate, S.W. .. 257
Lord, Sir Riley, Highfield Hall, Gosforth, Newcastle-on-Tyne .. 1,200
Barnes, Alice M., Abbey Wells, Woodhay, nr. Newbury, Berks. .. 1,400
Moon, James, Westwood, Eleanor Rd., Bidston, Birkenhead .. 1,210
Moon, John, Parkhurst, Parkfield Road, Didsbury, Manchester .. 1,180
Reid, Herbert Edgar, Walton Oaks, Walton Heath, Surrey.. .. 5,560
Moor, Rev. Gerald Henry, Preston Vicarage, Brighton 20
Banting, Cecil, M.D., Buleigh, West Hill, Putney, S.W. 303
Williams, Peter, 33, Hyde Park Gardens, W. 250
Huggins, Albert Edward, Wargrave Hill, Wargrave, Berks. .. 240
Uridge, Adèle V., Wickham, The Wallands, Lewes, Sussex.. .. 1,060
Lord, Albert A., Prudential Bldgs., Mosley St., Newcastle-on-Tyne 410
Lancaster, Capt. Hugh, South Lynn, Putney Hill, S.W. 245
Symondson, Herbert Walter, Lloyd's, E.C. 534
Preece, Sir William Henry, Gothic Lodge, Wimbledon, Surrey .. 240
Thompson, Alfred C., Chetnole, Oatlands Avenue, Weybridge, Surrey 450
Marshall, Charles Sale, Warneford Corfton Road, Ealing, W. .. 200
Martin, Walter Edwin, 1, Alexandra Grove, North Finchley, N. .. 260
Sedley, Ada Constance, Highclere, Hastings, Sussex 900
Johnson, Benjamin Sands, J.P., The Old Hall, Bootle, Lancs. .. 40
Robinson, James Ernest, 56, Croxted Road, West Dulwich 200
Harben, Mary Frances, 306, St. James Court, Buckingham Gate, S.W.
Gregory, Philip Spencer, 1, New Square, Lincoln's Inn, W.C... 3,953
Stable, Daniel Wintringham, Holly Lodge, Wanstead, Essex ..
(*Exors. of H. A. Harben, decd.*)
Dewey, Rev. Stanley D., The Rectory, Moreton Hampstead, Devon
Wigram, Rev. Beresford Edward, 33, Erleigh Road, Reading .. 100
Dewey, Marshall, Toots Wood, Bromley, Kent .. .. ..
Boyd-Richardson, Lieut. Sydney Boyd, R.N., Leybourne, Witley 545
Day, Rev. Archibald, The Vicarage, Malvern Link, Worcestershire 110
Luscombe, Sir John Henry, Hay Heath, Worth, Sussex 138
Bishop, Walter B., North Dene, The Park, Beckenham, Kent .. 280
Sassoon, Sir Edward Albert, M.P., 12, Leadenhall Street, E.C. .. 550
Moor, Rev. Gerald Henry, Preston Vicarage, Brighton .. 1,100
Currey, Edmund Samuel, King's Court, Broadway, Westminster, S.W.
Gooch, Edward Sinclair, Torcastle, Banavie, R.S.O. Inverness-shire 410
Dewey, Rev. Stanley D., The Rectory, Moreton Hampstead, Devon
Elwin, Rev. Ernest Andrew, Keighley, Yorks. 100
Dewey, Marshall, Toots Wood, Bromley, Kent .. ..
Wigram, Rev. Edmund F. E., St. John's College, Lahore, India ..
Wigram, Violet, St. John's College, Lahore, India 20
Herklots, Alice M., St. Saviour's Vicarage, South Hampstead, N.W.
Willis, Chas., J.P., (No. 2 *a/c*), St. Margaret's Bank, Rochester .. 90
Willis, Charles, J.P. (No. 3 *a/c*), St. Margaret's Bank, Rochester .. 240
Hart, Rev. Archibald, West Glenallan, Dunblane, Perthshire .. 30
Simmonds, Rev. Arthur, St. Mark's Vicarage, Reigate, Surrey .. 196
Marchand, Isidore Henry Alphonse, 79, Coleman Street, E.C. .. 381
Marchand, Alex. A. V. L., 9 and 10, Pollen St., Maddox St., W. .. 428
Day, Edith Aurora, Dene End, Haslemere, Surrey 2,750
Simmonds, Rev. Mark John, 37, Eaton Place, S.W. 60
Mellor, Rt. Hon. John W., K.C., P.C., 68, St. George's Square, S.W. 43
Campbell, William, Bonchester, Chislehurst, Kent 120
Sassoon, Frederick David, 12, Leadenhall Street, E.C. 100
Banting, William Westbrook, 158, West Hill, Putney, S.W. .. 223
Herklots, Rev. Gerard A., St. Saviour's Vicarage, S. Hampstead, N.W.
Herklots, Alice Margaret, St. Saviour's Vicarage, South Hampstead 53
Newall, William, 10, Throgmorton Avenue, E.C. 109
Burrell, Percy, The Grange, Barton Mills, Mildenhall, Suffolk..
Coleridge, Rev. George F., The Vicarage, Crowthorne, Berks ..
Cann, John Henry, Gothelney, near Bridgwater, Somerset .. 20
Fox, Major Arthur Barton, 4, Canterbury Road, Oxford ..
Birch, Reynardson Aubrey Henry, 2, Raymond Bldgs., Grays Inn
Fisher, Lieut. Frank, Hill View, 171, Tulse Hill, S.W. 149
Schooling, Rev., Cecil H., 118, Waddon New Road, Croydon .. 100
Bell, Thomas, J.P., 23, Windsor Terrace, Newcastle-on-Tyne .. 229
Boyd, C., Silwood Wyke, Winchester 401
Pugh, Wm. T., Fairview, Coombe Warren, Kingston Hill, Surrey .. 2,744
Hughes, William, Kingsmead, 62, Palace Rd., Tulse Hill, S.W. .. 2,120
Barnes, Ethel, 15, Chester Terrace, Regent's Park, N.W. .. ..
Slaughter, William Edmund, 7, Arundel Street, Strand, W.C. .. 955
Colegrave, Edward, 7, Arundel Street, Strand, W.C... .. ..
Symondson, Herbert Walter, Lloyd's, E.C. .. ..
Schooling, Fred. (No. 2 *a/c*), Holly Dene, Beckenham Lane, Bromley 580
Faber, Hubert Langrish, 32, Cornhill, E.C. .. .. ..
Pothecary, Chas. E., 1, Gresham Bldgs, Basinghall Street, E.C. 200
Tufnell Klug, M. W. F., 22, North Gate, Regent's Park, N.W.
Symondson, Jessie Kate, North Hall, East Chiltrington, Sussex
Symondson, Herbert Walter, Woodside, South Hill Pk., Bromley 527
Stable, Daniel W., Holly Lodge, Wanstead, Essex .. ..
McGrady, Henry, Arnhall, Dundee 100
Goold, John Colville, Thornton Lodge, Hooton, Cheshire ..
Scott, William Cumin, 15, Angel Court, E.C. .. .. ..
Barker, Cecil Vernon, Grove House, Southsea N... 100
Bowker, Frederick, 17, Southgate Street, Winchester N. ..
Hughes, Lancelot Hall, Kingsmead, 62, Palace Rd., Tulse Hill, S.W. 100
Schooling, F. ("B" *a/c*), Holly Dene, Beckenham Lane, Bromley
Clark, Charles, Craigievar, Durham Road, Bromley, Kent .. 114
Banting, Arthur Pugh, 27, St. James' Street, S.W. .. ..
Newnham, John Montague, 4, High Street, Croydon .. ..
Hilton, John, 30, Budge Row, E.C... 128
(*Exors. of T. Richardson, decd.*)
Cross, Lieut.-Col. Horatio Robert Odo, 96, Eaton Square, S.W. .. 1,094
Garson, William, 60, Palmerston Place, Edinburgh .. .. ..
Fraser, Ian M., 7, South Albert Road, Sefton Park, Liverpool .. 272
Garson, James, 5, Albyn Place, Edinburgh .. .. ..
Leonard, Albert Edward, Bank Buildings, Ludgate Circus, E.C. .. 150
Horne, William Edgar, M.P., 5, Tilney Street, Park Lane, W. .. 5,800

Guillemard, Sir Lawrence Nunns, 8, Swan Walk, Chelsea, S.W. .. 100
Cross, Florence Mary, 15, Rutland Court, S.W. .. ..
Fraser, Capt. Ian M., 7, South Albert Rd., Sefton Park, Liverpool 728
Garson, James, 5, Albyn Place, Edinburgh .. .. ..
(*Exors. of H. E. F. Cross, decd.*)
Reid, Percy Lester, The Guards Club, 70, Pall Mall, S.W. .. ..
Reid, Ernest Gordon, Mill Hall, Cuckfield, Sussex 1,483
Reid, Stuart Keppel, Mill Hall, Cuckfield, Sussex .. .. ..
Taylor, Alfred E. M., 4, Trafalgar Square, Charing Cross, S.W. ..
Stable, Daniel Wintringham, Holly Lodge, Wanstead, Essex .. 749
Banting, Edgar, Holmwood, Lovelace Road, Surbiton, Surrey .. 564
Young, Godfrey, The Briars, Sanderstead Hill, Surrey 520
Cole, Henrietta Anne, 28, Fellows Road, Hampstead, N.W. 1,475
Reid, Herbert Edgar, Walton Oaks, Walton Heath, Surrey ..
Reid, Capt. Percy Lester, Mill Hall, Cuckfield, Sussex 2,610
Reid, John Lillingston, Walton Oaks, Walton Heath, Surrey ..
Worthington, Albert Octavius, J.P., D.L., Maple Hayes, Lichfield.. 100
Secretan, Rev. Douglas L., Bucombe, Sussex .. .. ..
Secretan, Edward, Teal Bungalow, Bognor 170
Secretan, Norman, Lloyd's, E.C. .. ..
Secretan, Margaret C., Slaugham Park, Crawley, Sussex..
Palmer, Sir Francis Beaufort, 5, New Square, Lincoln's Inn, W.C. 50
Morgan, Violet Roy, Remenham House, 72, Avenue Road, N.W. .. 300
Cole, Rev. Canon Ed. P., 23, Gt. George St., Park St., Bristol .. 1,303
Boswell, Ellen E., Crawley Grange, Newport Pagnell, Bucks. .. 4,000
Horne, Alderson B., 4, Stone Bldgs., Lincoln's Inn, W.C. 5,500
Fisher, Frederick, Hill View, 171, Tulse Hill, S.W. 2,004
Cross, Marjorie Nelson Ritchie, 10, Belgrave Square, S.W. 3,067
Lancaster, Henry, 49—10, Drayton Gardens, S. Kensington, S.W. .. 245
Dewey, Thomas C., South Hill Wood, Bromley, Kent.. .. ..
Stable, Daniel W., Holly Lodge, Wanstead, Essex 7,500
Lancaster, Sir William John, South Lynn, Putney Hill, S.W. ..
Ponsonby-Fane, Sir Spencer C. B., P.C., G.C.B., Brympton, Yeovil 150
Morgan, Fanny M., 72, Avenue Road, Regent's Park, N.W. ..
Morgan, Fred. S., 72, Avenue Road, Regent's Park, N.W. .. 1,000
(*Exors. of F. Morgan, decd.*)
Cross, Agnes Elizabeth, 5, Leonard Place, Kensington, W. 1,217
Dewey, Rev. Stanley D., The Rectory, Moreton Hampstead, Devon
Elwin, Rev. E. A., 423, Skipton Road, Keighley, Yorks. 10
Dewey, Marshall, Toots Wood, Bromley, Kent .. .. ..
Elwin, George R., 82, Blackfriars Road, S.E. .. .. ..
Spurr, Edward, The Anchorage, Queen's Rd., Wimbledon, S.W.
Hodges, Albert Joseph, 24, Queen's Wood Avenue, Highgate, N. 7,400
Peek, Gervase Foottit, Delaney, Guernsey .. .. ..
(*Exors. of Mrs. M. M. Fraser MacEwan, decd.*)
Pugh, Robert L., 13, Essex Villas, Phillimore Gardens, W. 644
Morgan, Ernest Edgar, 29, Somerset Street, Portman Square, W. .. 250
Cole, Ernest H., c.o. E. S. Currey, King's Court, Broadway, Westminster 250
Allanson, Matilda, 14, St. Saviour's Road, Brixton, S.W. 548
Sparr, Edward, The Anchorage, Queen's Road, Wimbledon, S.W.
Peek, Gervase Foottit, Delancey, Guernsey 300
(*Exors. of F. C. R. Peek, decd.*)
Peek, Gervase Foottit, Delancey, Guernsey 200
Harris, Ebenezer, Holmleigh, The Ridgeway, Enfield, Middlesex 250
Lancaster, John Ray, Snettisham, Wimbledon Common, Surrey .. 295
Hunter, Curling, 6, Westbourne Terrace, Hyde Park, W. 700
Lancaster, John Roy, Snethalam, Wimbledon Common, Surrey .. 197
Waters, Mark Francis, 9, Lincoln's Inn Fields, W.C. .. .. ..
Hall-Smith, Percy, Northwold, Stanley Road, Sutton, Surrey .. 150
Moor, Alice Mary, Preston Vicarage, Brighton 796
Florence, Ernest Badinius, 5, Pump Court, Temple, E.C. 350
Day, Barclay Lewis, Dene End, Haslemere, Surrey 400
Smith, George, Russethings, Worcester Road, Sutton, Surrey .. 620
Dewey, George N., Stettin Lodge, St. Faith's Road, Dulwich, S.E. 300
Yardley, John, The Grange, Withersfield, Suffolk 300
Fisher, Louisa, Hill View, 171, Tulse Hill, S.W. 300
Willis, Harry Charles, The Briars, 178, Hagley Rd., Birmingham 413
Harben, Mary F., 306, St. James' Court, Buckingham Gate, S.W. 257
Sprague, Annie, The Firs, Bickley, Kent 255
London Assurance Corporation (No. 3 *a/c*), 7, Royal Exchange, E.C. 300
Harben, Guy Philip, Kensington Garden Studio, Notting Hill Gate 261
Hora, Arthur R. F., 45, King Street, Kingston, Ontario .. ..
Hora, Mary Florence, 45, King Street, Kingston, Ontario 339
(*Exors. of Mrs. L. Hora, decd.*)
Bailey, Arthur Hutcheson, 26, Mount Ephraim Rd., Streatham, S.W. 200
Ormandy, Mary Ann, Belswains, Hemel Hempstead, Herts 300
Martin, James, Sunnyside, 58, Palace Road, Streatham Hill, S.W. 750
Glenfield, Blanche H., 23, Fairfax Road, South Hampstead, N.W. 300
Morgan, Frederick Stuart, 64, Avenue Road, Regent's Park, N.W. 300
Lucas, Charles James, Warnham Court, Horsham, Sussex 410
Bryant, Evelyn D., 10, St. Edmund's Terrace, Regent's Park, N.W. 340
Reid, Captain Percy Lester, The Guards' Club, 70, Pall Mall, S.W. 150
Whelpton, Edith Beatrice, St. Saviour's Vicarage, Eastbourne .. 200
Horne, William Edgar, M.P., 5, Tilney Street, Park Lane, W. ..
Horne, Alderson B. (No. 2 *a/c.*), 4, Stone Buildings, Lincoln's Inn 142
Dent, Edward, 163, Threadneedle Street, E.C. .. .. ..
Pryor, Marlborough Robert, 63, Threadneedle Street, E.C. .. 800
Scott Murray, Charles Aloysius, 63, Threadneedle Street, E.C. ..
Owen, Elsie, Heather Lodge, Sunningdale, Berks 240
Willey, Henry, M.D., Somersfield, 41, London Road, Reigate .. 210
Henzell, Robert, Lorraine, Gosforth, Newcastle-on-Tyne 187
Hamilton, Veronica, King's Rider House, Camberley, Surrey .. 350
Symondson, Herbert Walter, Lloyd's, E.C. .. ..
Schooling, Fred. (No. 1 *a/c*), Holly Dene, Beckenham Lane, Bromley 300
Waters, Mark Francis, 9, Lincoln's Inn Fields, W.C. .. ..
Lancaster, Henry, 49, 10, Drayton Gardens, South Kensington, S.W. 100
Manger, Charles Harwood, New College, Oxford .. .. ..
Barnes, Cyril Gwynne Sedley, Abbey Wells, Woodhay, Berks. ..
Newington, Alexander Samuel, Woodlands, Ticehurst, Sussex .. 715
(*Exors. of R. Barnes, decd.*)
Rodwell, Laura, Pegula, New Road, Teignmouth, Devon 338
Willis, Harry Charles, The Briars, 178, Hagley Road, Birmingham ..
Willis, George Bright, Broad Meadow, Russel Road, Birmingham 124
Angus, Charles Joseph, 10, Walbrook, E.C. .. ..
Smith, Charles Reginald, Basted House, Borough Green, Kent ..
Bennett, Thomas, Orchardcombe, Bromley, Kent 200
(*Exors. of A. G. Smith, decd.*)

GRAVE WARNING TO TELEPHONE SUBSCRIBERS.

HOW MESSAGES ARE "TAPPED."

We doubt whether it is generally known that no conversation on the telephone is private. It is possible for any girl operator to listen to a subscriber's conversation. In the National, however, such a practice is reduced to a minimum. First, because the penalty is instant dismissal to any operator caught in the act, and, secondly, because behind the operators there is constantly a supervisor, a part of whose duty it is to see that there is no listening to conversation. The real danger of espionage, however, does not lie with the inquisitive operator, but with what can only be termed the "official spy." In the telephone exchanges in France, Germany, and Russia, there are what are termed "Observation Rooms." There sits an official, who usually belongs to the Secret Service, or the Police department, and he is there for the purpose of spying on whomever he suspects.

Now this is a system that we do not wish to see introduced into this country. In the "National," except for purposes of ascertaining that the operators are doing their work properly, there is no observation, and, so far as we know, the Post Office up to now works on the same lines as the "National." It is, however, when the monopoly is established—as it will be in a few months—that the danger of espionage will commence. It may be said that the same objection applies to telegrams—but when a person despatches a wire, it is with the full knowledge that it passes through several hands, and that a copy is kept in the Post Office. Not so with the telephone. Who for a moment would imagine that any note would, or even could, be taken of a telephone message? An ex-telephone supervisor tells us that although the leakage of news from the different exchanges is rare, several glaring cases have come under her notice. Of course, the girls were instantly discharged. Here is a typical case. The operator at a certain Exchange had been reported several times for having in the plug which connected her with a certain subscriber. When she was spoken to about it, she merely apologised, pulled out the plug, and resumed her work. In course of time, the supervisor noticed that it was always on the same line that the girl was listening, so she became suspicious and took the precaution of getting the name and address of the subscriber. The girl was discharged, and is now in the employ of a detective agency. We have had a talk with that young lady, and, on promise that her identity should not be revealed, she has told us the whole story.

An Operator's Confession.

While she was in the service of the Telephone Company, she made the acquaintance of a young clerk in the City. He seemed possessed of ample means, for after business hours he took her to theatres and restaurants, and, generally, they thoroughly enjoyed themselves. After a while, the young fellow told the girl his business. He was partner in a Private Enquiry Agency, and frankly asked the girl to help him in a case he had in hand. Without knowing what she would have to do, she promised that she would. Then the scheme was unfolded to her. She was to look out when a certain subscriber gave the call, note what number he wished to be connected with, and report the conversation to the Enquiry Agent. Several days passed without anything of real interest. Call after call was reported, but each seemed to be of no importance. At last, however, there came one call for which she was told that she could ignore all the others. For some days it did not come again, but at last there was this conversation: "Are you there?" "Yes, dear," from a female voice. "Oh, look here," said the subscriber, "I'm very sorry that I shall not be able to come and see you again. The fact of the matter is I'm being watched. I am, however, preaching at——(naming a place in the country). Go down there, meet me at the station after the evening service, and we can travel back to town together. Of course if there is anyone with me on the platform, you can get into another carriage." The repetition of that conversation seemed to satisfy the young detective admirably.

Some few months later there was an undefended Divorce Court action, the defendant being a certain clergyman. The lady who had gone to the country to meet him was a "nurse" in a massage establishment, whose telephone number used regularly to appear with the advertisement of the place.

It will be said, and quite rightly so, that this is an illustration where espionage did a real service, but we would point out that where spying serves one good cause, it is more likely to serve twenty bad ones.

Another Case.

Here is a case in point, the facts of which can be vouched for. "A" is a stockbroker in a large way of business, and he frequently takes orders from his clients over the telephone for the disposal of stock. A few years back, a client 'phoned and asked advice as regards the sale of certain stock. The stockbroker's reply across the wire was that the market was very flat, and that his client would be well advised to "hang on."

By some mysterious means, these particular stocks were, in the course of the morning, nearly knocked out of the market, and, equally mysteriously, there arrived a wire to the stockbroker, "Sell out at all cost; have been trying to 'phone you last half hour and failed." The broker sold out. On Settling Day the stocks had regained their position in the market—meantime, to the dismay of the broker, he learnt that his client had never despatched that wire. Espionage had done its work.

An American Case.

The recent case in America, where a woman was charged with murder and was acquitted, because she stated that she heard her husband conversing with her victim over the telephone wire, is another example of this danger. Had the murdered woman been there to speak for herself, it is more than probable that she would have been able to establish an alibi. Who dare say that the person who worked the telephone dodge had no grudge against the murdered woman?

Lovers' Quarrels.

Here is another case, vouched for by an operator who is still in the employment of the company. The daughter of a well-known public man was engaged to a City financier. She was of a very jealous disposition, and was constantly quarrelling with her *fiancé* on the 'phone. One evening the young gentleman was rung up by his future bride, and the reply came that his number was engaged. As a matter of fact, he was, at the moment, holding an animated and ardent conversation with a famous musical comedy actress, and the moment he had finished he was switched on to his impatient *fiancée*—whose first question was in reference to the actress just referred to. And the solemn asseverations of the unfaithful swain that he had not heard from or spoken to the lady for a week were the subject of much merriment in the Exchange!

Now is the time for inventors. Cannot a genius contrive some mechanism that will prevent espionage on the telephone?

"ALL WORK AND NO PLAY."

A WORD FOR THE STATION-MASTER.

We have had some complaints from railway station-masters in the service of the Midland Railway Company. Their grievance is that they can never get away from their work. They have a booked turn of duty, during which they are, of course, expected to be on the spot, but during off-duty hours they must also be within "reasonable call," and it is of this they are complaining. All other members of the staff when off duty may take advantage of the privilege-ticket arrangement, and go away to visit their friends and relatives, but the station-masters must stop at home. We can quite understand the desire of the railway company that the station-masters should always be within call, but we should have thought it possible that some arrangement might be made which would give them a few hours of absolute freedom. For example, it might be arranged that at the small stations, alternately, station-masters should be free from Saturday night to Monday morning, from the time they are booked off duty. This would leave the station-masters on either side within call. At medium stations there is usually a clerk competent to take charge, whilst at the principal stations an assistant station-master or inspector is available, but to expect a man to be at his post week-days and Sundays all the year round is unreasonable.

"THE INVESTITURE AND THE CHURCH"

A STALWART CHURCHMAN TAKES UP THE CUDGELS ON BEHALF OF MONOPOLY.

The Rev. F. A. Gage Hall, Rector of Ashfordby, Leicestershire—commenting upon our rejoinder "What on earth is it else?" to the *Church Times*' statement that the proposed performance of the religious part of the ceremony of investiture of the Prince of Wales by the Bishop of the Diocese and a representative of the Protestant Dissenters struck it as objectionable, because it was a "virtual admission that the Church is but one of several competing sects"—retorts, "There is only one Church in this country which has held the field ever since Christianity was introduced into England. All other religious bodies are *Sects* or *Sections* or *Denominations*, because at one time or another they left the Church and thus caused disunion, division and discord. The Church will always take precedence of all the denominations in spite of the advance of Radical and Socialistic Nonconformity. And I consider I ought to know what I am writing about, because I am a Priest of the Church, and therefore an expert in Religion, and thus duly qualified to teach the nation, including JOHN BULL, Christianity."

As our reverend friend says, he "ought to know what he is writing about." But does he? Perhaps some Nonconformist reader will supply the answer.

MORMONISM.

In a letter addressed to us by an American correspondent there is the following:—

> The rank and file of the Mormon Church is made up from the illiterate English, Scotch, Swedish, Norwegian and Dutch classes, and their descendants. I would rather be in Hell than live in Salt Lake a poor man. Get in touch with the *Salt Lake Tribune* if you want to know what Mormonism is. Anything you can say and do to prevent Englishmen migrating to Utah would be conferring a benefit on your countrymen. If I had my say I would have every missionary (Mormon) who attempted to preach the "Church of Christ Latter Day Saints" in England horse-whipped and turned out of the country. It is strange, but a fact, that there are very few converts to the Mormon church of German, French or Irish descent. Mormonism is a blot on civilisation.

So say we.

A NEW VIEW.

"OUGHT MEN TO HAVE THE VOTE?"

For an interesting article on this novel subject, see next week's MRS. BULL.

"FOOTBALL AND FAIRPLAY."

A COMMUNICATION FROM THE ASSAULTED REFEREE.

With reference to our recent paragraph upon the difference in the punishment for misconduct towards referees awarded to members of two football teams, Mr. H. Bradford, of Brighton, writes:—

> It was perfectly true that I did caution the Horsham player, that he did strike me forcibly in the mouth and that he drew blood. It is also true that the player was merely reprimanded for this. But this was not the action of the County Association. It was the decision of a sub-committee consisting of three members of that Association, and their reason for failing to adequately punish the player was that they had come to the conclusion that no blow was struck, meaning, of course, that the player's word was accepted before mine (for he said he merely gripped me round the neck). Thus not only did I suffer the pain and indignity of a blow in a public field, but I was also disbelieved when the player was "on the carpet." However, I made my protest to the full Council, but was ruled out of order, and as far as I was concerned that closed the incident.

Mr. Bradford, however, adds that there is no truth in the statement that the representative of the Horsham Club had something to do with the decision.

The punishment given to the Fishersgate player was not only for refusing to give his name, but also for misconduct on the field, and those who know the facts of that case must agree that the sentence was by no means harsh in comparison.

There is, Mr. Bradford says, no justification for the statement that the Association seem "deficient in proportion," for, apart from this incident, their decisions have always been noted for firmness and justice.

GERMAN PASSENGER SHIPS.

We have received a letter signed by 74 of the third-class passengers of the N.D.L. S.S. *Grosser Kurfurst*. The letter was written at sea, and complains of the food, accommodation, and general management on board the ship. As to the food our correspondents say:—

> The meat (the greater portion of which is nothing but fat) is served up at table scarcely half-cooked, while the tea is almost undrinkable. The butter, milk, cheese and bacon are also unfit for consumption, likewise the condiments and vegetables, the complaint to be made against the food being that it is not only of a very inferior quality but it is improperly cooked.

Before sailing, our correspondents tell us, they were given to understand that by "Open Berth" no more than from 8 to 10 persons would be required to accommodate themselves in one cabin. What they found, however, was, as they say, that 217 passengers are expected to herd together in 2,398 sq. ft. of baggage room. The ventilation of the "Open Berth" is, as they allege, quite inadequate.

TRADESMEN, BEWARE!

Some time ago we had numerous complaints from tradesmen in Pinner that a person calling himself "Captain Miller" had incurred debts and then cleared out without leaving any address. Many of these shopkeepers have a hard struggle to get a living, and felt their loss severely. We are not a debt collecting agency, so we simply filed the complaints, for future reference. Several tradesmen in Cricklewood now write and state that "The Captain" has been paying them a visit. For some months he lived with a Mrs. Arnold at Blenheim Gardens. This lady also "did a moonlight flit," owing a quarter's rent, besides other little items. We should mention that the pair do the thing in style. They have been frequently seen driving about in a slate-coloured motor-car.

WHAT IS YOUR NUMBER?

SEE PAGE II. OF COVER.

IS CANADA WORTH KEEPING?—XII.

"THIRTY MILES FROM ANYWHERE"—LEARNING THRIFT—FROM TORONTO—DISEASE-STRICKEN—"THE WARD."

Our Commissioner on the "Free Lands" again writes:—

To describe thoroughly the condition of things out in the snowy wilderness would be impossible. The life of the free-grant man or "homesteader" must surely be the hardest in the world. I speak particularly of the man from home without adequate capital, who took the risk of accepting the gift of 160 acres and started in to make it a farm. In some places that are settled there is not so much hardship in the life, since the people see something of each other occasionally, and it is not necessary for them to go through six months of the year feeling that they are the only people in the world, which, under the snow, seems so empty.

"Thirty Miles from Anywhere."

But how different is the case of the lonely unfortunate who is thirty miles from anywhere, has no neighbours, and lives in a hastily and ill-constructed log house on the beginning of his farm! He is full of grit indeed who does not in the first month of his first winter feel all his pluck oozing out of him when he gets down to actualities and realises what the free gift of a farm really means. When the weather was open, and grass was to be seen, and he could work like a horse—which is always necessary in this country—he had the remnants of the hope that was in him when he left home. But when several feet of snow are on the ground he cannot erect the fences that the Government rules tell him he must put up, and he is filled with fear of the Government, which in the matter of treating tenants is more exacting and quite as relentless as the worst of the Irish landlords whose crushing heel gave rise to the Land League and created boycotting and the moonlighter. He knows that if he does not obey the terms of the gift to the letter, out he will go, and somebody else will step into his place.

The following humorous story, (which is cut from a Victoria, British Columbia, paper) eloquently summarises the situation:—

Mike was "On."

An Irishman, wishing to take a "homestead," and not knowing just how to go about it, sought information from a friend.

"Mike," he said, "you've taken a homestead an' I thought maybe ye could tell me th' law concernin' how to go about it."

"Well, Dennis, I don't remember th' exact wordin' uv th' law, but I can give ye th' manin' uv it. Th' manin' uv it is this: Th' Govermint is willin' t' bet ye 160 acres uv land again $14 thot ye can't live on it five years widout starvin' t' death."

Learning Thrift.

The winter, the Honourable Frank Oliver, Minister of the Interior, and other well-paid men in the Government service will tell you, is the time for work. At Ottawa I had a long conversation with a responsible Minister, who said that the climate was "good," as it encouraged thrift, "for when the immigrants learn what it is, they save, so as to lay in warm clothing and make other provision for the winter"! And work the poor beggar of a free-grant farmer has to. He wants that timber that the Government allows him to cut free, and to get it he may have to trek twenty or thirty miles. A day's journey, that, over the snow. Arrived at the timber belt, he has to ply his axe, hew down the trees, lop them, load them, and then start on the back trek with them to his farm. Here he has to prepare them for fencing posts and other purposes. Day after day it is toil of the hardest kind. His well-sinking may have been a failure, and he may have to travel many miles with a barrel to draw water from a creek. From morning till night it is one weary, slavish round of labour. In addition to this the domestic calls must be looked after. As I think I have already said, he must have six months' provisions by him, and his meals must be cooked.

From Toronto.

Our Toronto Commissioner continues his description of life there as follows:—

The first thing about Toronto which strikes a stranger is its air of incompleteness. It is a city in process of reconstruction. It has grown enormously, the population having increased during the last ten years from 200,000 to about 350,000, but the various civic services have not been proportionately developed. It is much in the position of a youth who has suddenly shot up into manhood without a change of clothing, the more obvious deficiencies of which have been supplied by patching and piecing. The City Council, elected mostly by political or Orange lodge influence, have usually been destitute of foresight sufficient to grasp the situation and, instead of planning ahead, have muddled along in hand-to-mouth, happy-go-lucky fashion. As a consequence, the water supply system has got so badly out of order that the water is practically undrinkable and has to be doctored with chemicals to prevent a general outbreak of disease.

Disease-Stricken.

The result is that, owing to such conditions here and in other places in Canada, the late Deputy Registrar-General stated that owing to the polluted water many valuable lives have been lost, the death rate from typhoid in Canada being 35·5 per 100,000 population (in Toronto itself it is over 40)—in London it is 5. Contrast these facts with the Government's statement in one of its pamphlets touting for immigrants that "Good water abounds for drinking"! The Toronto *Evening Telegram* stated on January 11th last: "Mayor Geary and the controllers should seriously contemplate the possibility of being joined to the Medical Health and Works Department in an indictment if they neglect the duty of doing all that human foresight can do to prevent the further pollution of Toronto's water supply." Toronto also holds the record among the thirty-five largest cities in the world for mortality from scarlet fever and diphtheria.

"The Ward."

While the special correspondent and the visiting magnate have had their attention duly called to the really fine residence streets up-town, very few of them have ever visited the slum locality known as "The Ward," lying almost within a stone's throw of the down-town business section. This quarter—formerly inhabited principally by Irishmen—is now the abode of Jews, Italians and other foreigners. It is the distinctively foreign quarter of Toronto. You may traverse it and not hear a word of English, except from some of the younger generation, for the children pick it up quickly, especially American slang. The houses are mostly of the poorest type, badly out of repair, and showing every evidence of over-crowding and squalor. Children, of course, swarm everywhere. Everywhere there are the evidences of poverty, squalor, overcrowding and a lack of proper sanitation, characteristic of the city slum.

THE ENGLISHMAN'S HOME HIS CASTLE.

SOME SUGGESTED FURTHER BYE-LAWS.

By "Retlaw."

The Paddington Borough Council are considering the enactment of a new set of by-laws, to provide that every lodger in a tenement house shall, except in special circumstances, cause his bedroom windows to be opened for at least one hour in the morning and one hour in the afternoon; and to have the floor of his bedroom or bedrooms swept daily, and washed at least once a week.

As one who is all for fresh air and plenty of soap and water, I welcome with joy this step on the part of the Paddington Fathers. Indeed, I trust that, having commenced to move in the right direction, the Council will take their courage in both hands and extend still further their control over the happy homes of Paddington. I propose that the following additional by-laws be enacted without delay:—

1.—Any person or persons doing anything prohibited by or otherwise offending against any of the following by-laws shall be liable for every such offence to a penalty not exceeding forty shillings for a first offence, and not exceeding £5 for any subsequent offence.

2.—All plates, dishes, cups, glasses, knives, forks, spoons, saucepans, frying-pans and other utensils, implements and instruments used in the preparation and consumption of supper shall be washed, scoured, dried, and otherwise made clean overnight, and not left to be washed up with the breakfast things in the morning.

3.—All chimneys, flues, and other passages, holes, and recesses to which smoke has regular access shall be swept once in every three months, and the resultant soot preserved for the cultivation of Coronation Sweet Peas.

4.—All grates, ranges, and stoves shall be blackleaded, and all stone and concrete hearths, whether cracked or sound, as well as all doorsteps and window-sills shall be whitened, once every seven days.

5.—No cobwebs shall be allowed to hang suspended from any ceiling in any room, passage, closet, or cupboard for a longer period than one calendar month.

6.—All beds that have been slept in overnight shall be stripped, and the mattress or mattresses turned back, immediately upon the occupant arising in the morning, and allowed thus to remain airing for a period of at least one hour from such time.

7.—All beds shall be re-made by 10 o'clock a.m.

8.—Once every seven days the bottom sheet of each bed in every bedroom in every house in the Borough shall be removed, and the top sheet substituted for it, and a clean sheet substituted for the top sheet thus transferred.

9.—Every occupant of every house shall wash, or cause to be washed, his or her face, hands, and no less than three inches of neck, at least once every twenty-four hours.

10.—Every male occupant of every house shall shave, or cause to be shaved, his chin, cheeks, neck, and top lip, at least once every three days; provided always that such male occupant does not grow a beard and moustache (which is to be deprecated), or has not reached such age as is favourable to the production or growth of face moss.

11.—Every female occupant of every house shall have her hair out of curling pins or curl papers by midday at the latest each day (Saturdays excepted), and all hooks and eyes securely fastened.

12.—Every child occupant of every house shall have his or her nose duly wiped by some qualified person at least three times a day, and four times on Sundays.

ROBBERY UNDER ARMS.

Our recent article on "Soldiers' Widows" brings us many piteous appeals. What do our readers think to the following?

> My father was in H.M. service for thirty years. He served seven years as shipwright apprentice, four as a draughtsman and nineteen as an assistant overseer. During this service a weekly deduction was taken from his wages towards superannuation purposes. On his death, at 44 years of age, I claimed on behalf of my mother, a gratuity, or return of the deductions. This in all would be about £320. My claim was rejected by both the Director of Naval Contracts and the Secretary to the Lords of the Admiralty.

Almost as bad as some of the Prudential cases!

HUMAN DOCUMENT.—CXL.

A DESERVING CASE FROM HULL.

The facts stated in the following appeal have been confirmed by us. We shall be happy to be the medium of remitting to the unfortunate man any moneys that our readers may be good enough to send for him:—

> I am 25 years old, married, and have one child aged 8 months. We have had to sell our home owing to my inability to pay the rent and keep things going, due to lack of permanent employment. My wife has got a situation in Manchester as help in a public-house—work which she is utterly unsuited for—and earns 8s. a week, out of which she has to pay 5s. a week for the baby. I have been out of employment for the last 10 months, and we have pawned and sold everything of value belonging to us to live. My last employers were the Hull Fruit Co., Humber Street, who have now given up business. I then raised money on two houses my stepfather had left me, and started on my own, but eventually lost all my capital, and but for the kindness of friends—themselves not in affluent circumstances—who offered me a home till something turned up, I should have been stranded. The chances are very remote of my getting another home together and supporting my wife and child unless I get regular employment, and if any reader could offer me employment in any capacity, in any part of the country, I should be very grateful. I may say that I am not at present in a robust state of health and should like outdoor work if possible.

We have received the following amounts, which we have duly forwarded to the subjects of the "Human Documents" named:—

CXXIX.—"Three Chums," 5s.; "Kate," 5s.

CXXXIV.—Collected by A. C. (Lurgan), 7s. 6d.

CXXXVII.—Parcel of clothing; M. G., 5s.; E. M., 1s.; A. J., 1s.; "One Who Knows," 1s. 6d.; E. B., 10s.; G. F., 2s. 6d.; "Subscriber," 2s.; "On the Square," 2s. 6d.

CXXXVIII.—W. R. P., 1s.; J. M., 6s.; J. J. J., 2s.; "Sailoribus," 2s. 6d.; E. M., 2s. 6d.; "On the Square," 2s. 6d.;

CXXXIX.—"Honest Freemason," 5s.; W. C. F., 2s. 6d.; "Anthony," 1s. 6d.; H., 1s.; J. J. J., 2s.; "A Mite," 2s. 6d.; "Bismillah," 2s. 6d.; "On the Square," 2s. 6d.. "Commercial Traveller," 6s. 7d.; "Pat," 6d.; P. W., 1s.; H. C., 2s. 6d.; "Baby Roff," 5s.

LIEUTENANTS IN THE ROYAL "NAVY" WHO REMAIN ON SHORE.

"What is becoming of our Navy?" asks a correspondent. "Shall we fight our next Naval battle with *Dreadnoughts* on the shore, on wheels? Evidently the powers that be think so, or are uncertain on the point, else why do they keep two executive Lieutenants occupying shore berths for the last eight years—one serving in the Royal Naval Barracks, Portsmouth, and the other in the Dockyard, Portsmouth, both borne on the books of H.M.S. *Victory*? These officers have held their present appointments from 1903, and have *never* been to sea since. Now that the two years' commissions are instituted, all officers and men on completing that time, either at sea or in home berths, get a change round, the idea being to keep efficient and to be of use to the State when war time comes. And again, Sir, it is not to the best interest of the Service that any officer or man should remain in the same appointment for ever. What do these two officers know about a modern man-of-war?—things change quickly in the Navy. They are remaining on shore (plump billets) to the detriment of the many who have to go from ship to ship, and lead a strenuous life. 'We all like a change.' Neither of these officers has performed any gallant deed of heroism, nor has he shown any special qualification above that of any ordinary person. There must be something wrong with the Naval system. We are sadly in need of a 'Business Government.'"

THE "JOHN BULL" BIOSCOPE.

A series of Bioscope views, depicting how John Bull and *Mrs. Bull* are produced, is being shown in various towns and cities on the cinematograph of the "John Bull Entertainment." To-day (Thursday) the car will be in Brighton (Park Lane, near Park Street); Friday, Shoreham; Saturday and Monday, Worthing; Tuesday, Arundel; and on Wednesday, Chichester—and readers and their friends should not fail to see these well-known periodicals "in the making."

BRIGHTON WORKHOUSE MASTER.

A WORD TO THE GUARDIANS.

Arising out of recent allegations against the Master and Matron of the Brighton Workhouse, we have received a copy of the Report of the District Auditor, who was present at the exhaustive enquiry *in camera* as a result of which the Matron was permitted to resign, the Master automatically following, through joint appointment. Further we learn that, following the enquiry referred to, it has been decided by a majority of the Board to retain the services of the Master until his successor is appointed. As to this latter proposal, we imagine that the ratepayers of Brighton will not regard it with such favour as the Board of Guardians suppose. The charges are published in a letter addressed by the District Auditor to Mr. W. D. Bushell, Inspector of the Local Government Board. In general, the Auditor is apparently satisfied that the Master has wrongfully applied the property of the Guardians by receiving from the stores rations to which he was not entitled for the use of himself, his family, and his friends. "The Master explained that he had four paupers in his household who were treated as the personal servants of himself and family, and who had fed from the remains of his joints. I will not dwell," comments the District Auditor, "on the irregularity involved in this explanation. On being questioned as to what happened to the surplus meat, he replied that it was returned to store. In the circumstances, the Master's explanation cannot be regarded as adequate." "It would appear," the District Auditor comments again, "that some portion of this excess has been applied to the maintenance of the Master's youngest daughter, who is living in the workhouse; to meals supplied to various visitors staying the night, or otherwise, particularly to the Master's married daughter, Mrs. Fage. . . . I have ascertained that in some of the cases of which I have knowledge the visitors were present with the sanction of the Guardians, though that sanction would not apply to the provision of workhouse stores for their maintenance." Then comes this sentence: "There is no doubt that such meat has been supplied to the Master in excess of his own, and the Matron and the Assistant Matron's rations have been charged in the workhouse books as being supplied to the paupers." We will not characterise that culminating fact—it speaks for itself. What we have to say to the Guardians, though, is that, seeing they have decided to retain the services of the Master until his successor is appointed, we trust they will appoint his successor as speedily as possible. He is obviously too enterprising for his present post.

THE AKBAR SCANDAL.

A correspondent writes to us from American Falls, Idaho, as follows:—

> I receive your bright, matter-of-fact and useful to the community wherein it circulates, paper almost weekly. It is read by a fairly large circle of friends in our vicinity. The matter of the "Akbar Reformatory Brutality Whitewash" has created a burst of indignation among the little bunch of readers here, and we query as to whether Masterman is a married man and a father of boys. As regards that brutal monster Lovelock, he is lucky in the fact that he lives in "Christian" (?) England. Had he lived in practical America, I do not think it would have happened. Lynch law has its moral effect, and I do not think Lovelock would have taken any chances.

QUESTIONS FOR THE ADMIRALTY.

How long has it been the custom of captains of fishery gunboats to keep their stewards at their homes doing butlers' duties while the gunboats are at sea? Who pays the wages of these men, and are they paid for performing naval duties, or for acting as domestic servants? If any gallant captain requires a butler, we shall be pleased to give him the address of a Service Employment Agency.

WHAT IS YOUR NUMBER?

See page ii. of cover.

"THE BATTERSEA DOGS' HOME SCANDAL."

THE SECRETARY'S EXPLANATIONS.

Referring to the complaint that no effort is made to restore lost dogs to their owners, the Secretary says it was found that attempts to do this almost invariably ended in failure. People were brought from some distance, often at considerable expense and trouble, to see dogs which it was thought corresponded with the description they had given, and when it turned out that the animals were not theirs they were considerably annoyed with the officials of the Home for bringing them there for nothing, even though bound to admit that the animals in question closely resembled the description given.

With regard to the complaint that the Secretary declines to give information as to the items of the balance sheet, and more particularly as to the sum of £1,072 15s., which, in 1908, was paid by the police to the Home, the Secretary says this is untrue. The explanation as to the police payments, which is well known to subscribers, is that the Solicitor to the Receiver for the Metropolitan Police advised that, in order to enable the Home to sell the time-expired dogs, it was necessary they should be purchased from the police.

On the other hand, the police agreed to pay a small subsidy towards the expenses entailed by the keep of the dogs while at the Home, and the difference between £1,072 15s. and £438 13s. 4d., namely, £534 1s. 8d. represents the net amount received from them for the year.

With regard to the Katz's Patent Collar, some time ago an establishment for the sale of these collars was opened opposite the Home. Mr. Katz wrote abusive letters to the Committee, because for nearly forty years the Home sold the ordinary collar, for the convenience of the public, and on his apologising he was permitted to put his collars on sale for six months or more last year.

With regard to the amount of salaries, £2,132 15s., in addition to the van men, twenty keepers and kennel men have to be paid to clean, feed, and look after the dogs, whilst by the provisions of the Dogs Act, 1906, an elaborate register has to be kept, with full particulars of every dog received and how it is disposed of. It is therefore necessary to keep a clerical staff as well, and if the Home made a practice of corresponding with all persons who lose their dogs, it would be quite impossible to work it with anything like the present staff and salaries.

This is the answer of the Secretary to our criticisms, and we accept his explanations without reserve. We also desire to say with reference to the paragraph that appeared in our "World, Flesh and Devil" columns of last week that it has been pointed out to us that it might be read as suggesting that the authorities at the Home do not present correct accounts, and are guilty of conduct in connection with better class dogs which cannot be reconciled with fair dealing. We desire, therefore, to say, and we do so without any communication from the authorities at the Home, that we did not intend to convey any such meaning.

BIRTHDAY OF THE WEEK.

"JOHN BULL'S" GREETING.

May 7th.—Lord Rosebery.

Britain's tame orator, whose chief delight
  It seems to speak to dry academicians
On topics which are rarely worth a flight
  Of eloquence—viz., Dickens' Stamps and Missions.
Oh, how much better it had been, had you
  Foresworn the vain rhetorical oration,
And found instead some solid work to do
  For our purblind and groping British nation!

Come, lend a hand! There's work to do to-day—
  Stretched o'er the land lies hydra-headed Party,
A horrid monster, hard indeed to slay,
  But who'll succumb to blows if they be hearty;
Come, leave your lonely furrow! Where's the good
  In ploughing if there's none to sow and reap it?
Here's a crusade to suit your knightlihood—
  Make a stern vow 'gainst Party—*and then keep it.*

LIVERPOOL AGED MARINERS' HOME.

OUR SPECIAL COMMISSIONER INVESTIGATES SOME COMPLAINTS.

On the banks of the river Mersey there lies a magnificent building surrounded by cottages, all on enclosed, well-kept grounds. This is the Liverpool Home for Aged Mariners, and was built by a prominent Liverpool shipowner in memory of his daughter. The cottages have been erected and endowed at various times by gifts and legacies from well-known local people. These are occupied by aged mariners who have spent all their lives in helping to put Great Britain at the head of the commercial world.

Those in the cottages are granted plenty of liberty and no restrictions; but though they are all supposed to be past working age, in one case the man goes over to Liverpool and earns the sum of 24s. per week. I think the committee could easily find someone more deserving.

Most of the old men living in the main building have, in their day, been masters of their own ships, men or officers who have dressed in gold lace and navigated great liners. Now they clean brasswork and wash out lavatories for their food and lodging. They are seventy in number, and their ages range from 68 to 90!

The charity is plentifully endowed, legacies are constantly being received, subscriptions come along from the great shipping firms, and concerts are raised on all the large passenger ships, in some cases realising as much as £50 or more in a voyage of a few weeks, so we must disabuse our minds of the idea that there is any financial strain.

During the reign of the late Lady Superintendent there was nothing but happiness, but when her successor came along (I am informed, from a neighbouring workhouse) the old men began to have their troubles.

For instance, it is now compulsory that the windows of the inmates' rooms be open in all weathers. The men dare not close the windows if they wished, no matter how cold the weather. Not so long since, two old fellows were crouched down on the floor, sheltering themselves behind a table from the biting wind. "This is killing me," remarked one to the other. He was dead next day, and it was credited to a sudden attack of pneumonia.

When I visited the building a short time ago, in company with a District Councillor, there was a keen north-east wind blowing across the river, full on to the front of the building, which also stands high above the sea level, yet the windows were open top and bottom.

Some few years ago, when funds were not quite so flourishing, the old men were asked to repair some mats, belonging to the institution, which they cheerfully did; but after a little while the work was stopped by the then matron, as she said it made the place look too much like a gaol. Now, however, this work forms part of the allotted daily task, twelve men being told off each day for it—not now to do necessary repairs, but to make new mats. What becomes of the finished articles nobody seems to know, but it is certain that they are not used in the home. The oldest man put to this work is in his eighty-eighth year, and it is certain that the founders of this splendid charity never contemplated such tasks being given to its inmates.

The printed food scale reads very well on paper, yet the food given is both poor in quality and insufficient in quantity, and would be absolutely refused by the crew of any vessel sailing out of the port. Figuring on the menu for dinner are tripe and onions one day, liver and bacon another; yet for months neither has been seen by the inmates.

Up till recently, should one or another of the old men sit up all night watching a sick mate, he got the sum of 1s., but now no remuneration whatever is given for this hospital work. The money so earned was much appreciated by the old chaps, as it was used to buy tobacco, which they shared with their cronies.

Although the Home's finances are better than ever, the 6d. per week which used to be granted for pocket-money has also been stopped if the men go away to friends for a little holiday. Before, it used to be given them in advance for the time they were going to be absent.

The hospital bears such a delightful reputation that when the men are ill they implore the officials to allow them to be removed to the workhouse infirmary.

I should be glad to hear what the committee have to say on the matter.

SAILORS INSULTED BY CATERERS.

A PETTY OFFICER'S EXPERIENCE.

We receive complaints from naval officers and other sailors who travel by train from one port to another and are supplied with vouchers entitling them to meals by the way. A petty officer, for instance, relates his experience at a railway refreshment bar: "We were treated as though we were not human. They gave us our food enclosed in paper bags made up. We had to stand at the counter; there were eating-rooms, but we were not allowed to look at them, and when I asked for a knife and plate I was treated with disdain—I thought I was asking for a quid. Yet the contractors are always advised by the naval authorities well beforehand. In this case they knew overnight that the train had almost an hour to wait. I think we could have had a hot dinner under a place of shelter, and they could still have had a fair profit, as they receive from the Admiralty 1s. a head for every person served. Why should not a man who is willing to fight his country's battles be treated with respect?"

When we remember the outcries and reprimands which have followed the impertinence of places of entertainment in refusing admission to men in uniform, we venture to hope that the Admiralty will take this matter up. It is not enough for them to pay for provisions; they must insist upon proper service and the courtesy which is due to the national forces. Imagine what would have happened if such impertinence had been attempted towards soldiers or sailors in Germany.

BUSINESS AND HOLINESS.

PECULIAR CONDUCT OF CHAIRMAN OF STRATFORD BENCH.

A few days ago the Stratford bench heard a summons against the licensee of the Hippodrome, Ilford, for unlawfully allowing the place to be used for cinematograph shows on Sunday, the Chairman remarking—after the licensee had given his word it should not occur again—"We don't care for your undertaking. We shall stop you—£3 3s. and costs."

But the Chairman of the Bench (Mr. Barnett Tabrum) is also a director of the Brentwood Motor and Garage Co., which, according to a displayed advertisement over the premises, is "always open." Will he, therefore, inform us by what theological or moral process of thought he has convinced himself that it is a holy work to carry on a motor car business on Sunday for profit? Is the difference merely the one is *his* business, and the other the other fellow's?

"SUNDAY SCHOOL TEACHER—AND 'WRONG 'UN.'"

THE WESLEYAN METHODIST AUTHORITIES "SIT TIGHT, AND SAY 'NUFFIN.'"

Up to the time of going to press, we have received no reply from the Wesleyan Methodist authorities, who, it will be remembered, have permitted the man James Cooper, of 5, Duke's Brow, Blackburn, to conduct at the Trinity Wesleyan Methodist Church in that town a Sunday-school class for ladies. Cooper's record (under his alias of "James Eastwood") in connection with the bogus "Re-Stor Institute" is now notorious.

SHEFFIELD GUARDIANS AND THE SHAVING OF PAUPERS.

In a recent article on this subject, our Special Commissioner stated that the present occupant of the post had been discharged from the Army on account of suffering from epileptic fits. We are assured that this is not correct, and that he served his full term with the colours, and was discharged and transferred to the Reserve in the usual way. As we are always perfectly willing to amend any inaccuracy that may get into our columns, we are only too pleased to give this the publicity the original report obtained.

MAY 6th.

"Here's a health unto his Majesty!"

HOW GAS CONSUMERS ARE ROBBED.

CONTRAST BETWEEN NORTH AND SOUTH LONDON PRICES.

By W. J. R.

At a recent meeting of the shareholders in the Gas Light and Coke Company it was announced that a movement was contemplated for the purpose of acquiring two local gas companies in the North East suburbs of London. Now it might be a good thing for the shareholders in the two companies should the matter be carried through, but it does not at all follow that it would be equally good for their customers, the consumers.

The Gas Light and Coke Company is a striking example of the baleful influence of "trusts." A combination of the various companies which used to supply London north of the Thames, it has a practical monopoly of the whole of that vast district, and can, and does, charge what it likes for its productions. About twenty-five years ago the price of the gas it supplied was 2s. 6d. per thousand feet, then suddenly it was rushed up to 3s. 1d., and after standing at that figure for some time it was gradually and grudgingly lowered a penny a time, until at the end of 1910 it stood at 2s. 8d.

But in addition to North London, where it can charge what it likes, this same company supplies a portion of South London, where it has a rival, the South Metropolitan; there its charges are 2s. 2d. per thousand—that is, where there is no competition its charges are nearly 25 per cent. above the price at which it finds it profitable to supply the customers who are more fortunately situated. I have before me two bills for gas supply, both to small consumers, and both for 8,000 feet. The South London bill is 8,000 feet at 2s. 2d., and 5d. meter rent charge; total, 17s. 9d.; and the other, the North London one, is 8,000 feet at 2s. 8d., and meter rent 9d.; total, £1 2s. 1d.

Readers will note that even for meters the rent charge in North London is nearly double that of South London. There is not a shadow of excuse for this enormous difference, the 6d. per thousand extra charge is sheer robbery, and in no other city in the country would it be tolerated.

It certainly does not cost more to produce the higher-priced gas; quite the contrary. The gas for North London is nearly all made at Beckton, by the river side, some distance below Woolwich. That for South London is made in Nine Elms Lane, Vauxhall, about fifteen miles higher up the river, and the vessels carrying the coal have to travel that extra distance and be of such size as to be able to negotiate the eleven of London's bridges which lie between.

Efforts have been made by the Gas Light and Coke Company to get leave to sell their South London concern to the South Metropolitan, but hitherto without success. Not that it does not pay; it pays right enough—just as it pays the rival company, which sells gas at the same price—but the reason why they want to sell is because they want to plunder still more. By a clause in their Act of Parliament, they must supply all public bodies at a charge not exceeding the lowest price at which they supply the ordinary consumer; so that at present they have to supply borough councils and the like at the same price as they charge their South London consumers. But if they were rid of the Southern district concern then they could charge public bodies the same price as they charge in North London, viz., sixpence per thousand more, as that would then be the minimum charge. Fortunately for North London ratepayers, it has not "come off" up to now, but they will "try, try, try again" without doubt; and they might one day manage to slip a Bill through among a crowd of private Bills, and the last stage of the North Londoner will be worse than the first.

Now here is a task which the John Bull League might well take in hand. It is unfortunately true that the average Londoner is apathetic and almost entirely devoid of public spirit. It seems absurd, but there is not one in ten could tell the name of the mayor of his own borough; he will put up with almost any imposition rather than be "bothered," which is the reason why this gigantic fraud has been worked on him so long. Not five in a thousand, I venture to say, know of the facts I have given; but surely if the John Bull League will set itself the task of making clear the fashion in which he has been swindled out of tens of thousands of pounds every year, even the slow moving, pachydermatous Londoner will begin to move.

THE UNITED SERVICES TOURNAMENT.

A WORD OF WARNING TO THE PUBLIC.

Before us we have a prospectus of the United Services Tournament, Limited.

We first heard of this concern in 1910. With a great flourish of trumpets, it made its appearance as "The Naval and Military Tournament of Empire." The astute publicity artist of the affair got it boomed in the Press and made the attempt to rope us in, but we preferred to "wait and see." The Press puffs said it was "a scheme to aid recruiting"; that "the War Office had approved, and were giving all the help possible, by the loan of guns and such like." No less than 700 officers and men were to be transformed into showmen," and a three years' tour was to be made in Great Britain and the Colonies. Naturally, the first performance was to take place in the "seat of Empire"—Birmingham. It was worked out—on paper, of course—that besides stimulating recruiting, a profit of at least £200,000 would be made. This sum the promoters generously promised should go towards building a Veterans' Home in London. Possibly the wirepullers had in their mind's eye Major Haggard's Kingsway scheme, which we stigmatised as utopian some two years ago.

A few days after the booming in the Press, the War Office sent out notices denying the statement that they had offered, or intended to offer, help. This is the first rational act which we have known the War Office to do for some time. The promoters of the concern, however, were not to be beaten. They would do it "off their own bat." And this is how they set about it.

Some thirty officers were offered employment during the tour of the tournament. The qualification was the deposit of £50 each towards preliminary expenses. Officials were then appointed, offices rented, and such like. How the money subscribed by these officers has been spent would form interesting reading. The loss is theirs. All we are concerned about is that they shall not get it back from the public, an attempt at which, we understand, is to be made in a few days.

At present, this is how the matter stands. The Tournament Syndicate is to advance £3,000, in order to float the Tournament Company, with a capital of £100,000. The ordinary shareholders of the syndicate are to have returned all money subscribed by them, together with 100 per cent. in cash. On April 6th, an advertisement appeared in *The Times*, asking for tenders for equipment and stores for this military circus. The advertisement states that what is required are 280 horses, 20 wagons, 2 traction engines, 1,400 loaves a day, a grand stand to seat 16,000 people, and 125 stone of meat a day—it must be all "English." And there are other little items which we need not mention.

The prospective profits of the tournament are worked out according to the earnings of Messrs. Barnum and Bailey while at Olympia. They are estimated at 100 per cent. per annum. The promoters forget to remind the public of the ultimate smash up at Glasgow of the "Greatest Show on Earth." This, surely cannot be a lapse of memory, on the part of the gentleman who figures as the general manager, Mr. Montague Sylvester.

As the idea of the tournament originated in the brain of Mr. Sylvester, it is perhaps not strange that he is to be provided with a good fat job, at £1,500 a year.

Then we have the astute Press Representative of the syndicate provided with a job. He is to have a modest £500 a year, and 1,000 fully-paid up 5s. shares.

The secretary of the syndicate is also to be provided for. He is to act as secretary to the company at a yearly salary of £600, and to have a little present of 500 fully-paid up shares.

Now just a few words as regards the proposed show itself. The arena spectacles are supposed to include some of the most stirring war scenes in history. Big guns by the dozen, and rifles by the hundred would, of course, have to come into play. We ask, in all seriousness: do these mad-brained promoters imagine that the executive Government, whether it be Tory, Liberal, or a Business one, is going to allow an armed mob to roam the country? A military tournament at Olympia, under proper supervision, is all very well, but a roaming, undisciplined mob, with arms and ammunition, is out of the question altogether—besides, of course, being a breach of the law.

If you cannot strop any other razor, you can strop this one — or rather it

Strops Itself

AutoStrop

SAFETY RAZOR

Perhaps on some occasion you have come across a barber who has given you "The Shave of a Lifetime"—close, velvety—a razor touch that was almost a caress.

If so it was because he was an exceptional stropper and therefore had an exceptionally keen blade.

The AutoStrop Safety Razor will give you every morning just this kind of shave because the blade meets the strop at the very angle and with the very pressure which gives the keenest shaving edge. Moreover it is the cheapest razor you can buy, because one blade will last for months or even years. Therefore, the first outlay gives years of shaving luxury—there is no continual expense for new blades.

AutoStrop Standard set contains AutoStrop Safety Razor, 12 blades, horsehide strop, complete in leather case **21/-**

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That is why we are willing to let you take home an AutoStrop Safety Razor, shave with it for 30 days, and then decide whether you wish to keep it. There will be no obligation to buy. The AutoStrop Safety Razor will be supplied through your dealer, on whom we will give you an order. Fill up the coupon which appears at the bottom of this page; write your name and address and that of your dealer very clearly; and post the coupon as directed.

Fill up the Coupon and POST TO-DAY.

COUPON to be sent to the AutoStrop Safety Razor Co., Ltd., 61, New Oxford Street, London, W.C.

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J.B.

NO OBLIGATION TO BUY.

LETTERS FROM JANE ANN.

BEING COMMUNICATIONS FROM A YOUNG PERSON TO HER FRIENDS AND RELATIONS.

By Moore Anking.

Skibboridge Neuk,
Sitha, N.B.

My Own Darling Bertram,—Don't we have nokshus luck? We do, don't we? Simply pewtrid I call it. However did you manage to fall off the van? Shouldn't wonder but what somebody's got a spite again you, Bert, else you was reading or playing tippit. I know how rekkless you are.

Father was just the same. Might have been alive now, poor dear, if he hadn't tried to push his organ through a tram-car.

Still, father wasn't quite like you, Bert. Bit more advanced if I might say. The things he called the tram company you never would bleeve. It was a treat to hear him. Mother's had lots of offers for the deaf and dumb card off father's organ, but she never would part with it. I'm to have it when I'm twenty-one.

That string you hang on to, Bert, it never seems safe to me. Ought to be tested by the County Council or somebody every morning. You know, dear, I don't like you taking such risks. Specially with me looking forward to our weedding-day, so's I can have a friend to turn to.

Fact is, Bert, you're not reelly strong, and I don't bleeve you get all the exercise you should. Don't mind me saying so, do you, dear? What I mean is whoop-la may be all very well, but it don't bring the proper mussels into play. Now, darling, barring whoop-la—two rings a penny and you never win—and barring the climbing in and out of those skin-tight pants you wear of a evening, what fizzical exercise do you get? None hardly do you dear? So you see what I mean.

Still, understand me rightly, I'm not finding fault more than I can help. And if you've got mussels where you want 'em most I s'pose that's everything in your business. As father said when the landlord asked for the rent, What you've never had we shall never miss. So I s'pose its all for the best, though I should like to see you in a slate club. Never know when you may have another shake-up, and a holiday's no good without money. Mean to say there's no fun much in going out when you've nothing coming in.

You mustn't get worried, dear, when I tell you, but I've been laid up, too. German measles. Don't breathe 'em to mother, might upset her. Must have been about the time you fell off the van, so you and I have been in our little bed together without knowing it. We do have sickening luck, don't we?

Such a nice doctor person came to see me, Bert. Used to knock at the door and caugh before he came in. You know, one of the thoughtful sort. And such lovely whiskers, Bert dear.

First time he came he clutched me by the wrist and said I was in a very low way. So I said Shouldn't wonder. Then he said Turn over please and I said Don't think it matters, both sides is alike. And then he said I surprised him, and he might have to consult a special list before he came again.

Just as he was leaving, our old housekeeper came in for one of her cheer-up talks. Said she knew a girl that went just like me, just about my age too. Got some funny complaint that the doctors couldn't quite make out. Her boots used to fill with sand.

Her people tried to get her married to a builder, but the hand of fate was against her, whatever that means. Anyway, just before the wedding, she stopped being a sandpit, so the builder didn't marry her. Said he had his business to attend to.

Of course it was sweetly interesting and all that, but I think it was the doctor what reelly pulled me through.

Try and keep out of any further danger, Bert dear. Shouldn't make too much of a friend of the manager if I was you. P'raps your being so clever's what riles him, makes him want you out of the firm.

And now, dear, you must excuse me, 'cause I think one of the kids has set hisself afire. Mind you take every precawtion for your health. Good-bye, love. x x x

Yours till death,

Jane Ann.

ANTICIPATED EPITAPHS.

By W. M.

Somewhere
In ye neighbourhoode of thys slabbe
Crumbleth ye Clay
of
William Clough,
For a verie short tyme
Member of Parlyment
For
Skyppton, in ye Countie of Yorkshyre;
Where ye Tykes come from.
Born Anno Domini 1862,
Hys precocytie
Astonished and alarumed hys parents.
Atte ye earlie age of two yeares
Hee,
Wyth greate solemnitie,
Would say hys Grace before Meate.
Itt was therefore thought expedient
To trayne hym for a Commercial Career:
Wherefore
Hee was placed in ye Busynesse of a Relatyve;
To witte,
John Clough and Sons,
And became,
Inne due tyme and season;
A spinner and manufacturer.
Retyrynge from Busynesse Anno Domini 1892;
Hee was throwne, through ydlenesse,
Intoe all sortes of strange courses:
Hee became a Member of ye West Rydynge Countie Council;
Hee joined ye Wesleyan Methodyst Societie;
Hee became a Classe Leader and Sunday Schoole Teacher;
Hee was alreadie a Teetotaler:
Butte,
Notte contente wyth these manie Extravagancies,
Hee needs must become alsoe
A Passyve Resyster.
Butte there was worse to come.
By some strange oversyghte
On ye parte of ye Constituents of Skyppton,
Possessed otherwyse of average intellygence,
Hee became, Anno Domini 1906,
Member of Parlyment
For they're Division.
From thys tyme dates hys falle.
Critycysed on accompt of hys electionerrynge methods
By a local Newespaper—
Ye same methods includynge unchrystyan language
Against ye House of Lordes,
And, itte is sayd,
Strykynge a Woman inne a moment of passione
Inne ye streete,
Hee, inne a weake moment,
Tooke action for Libel
And
Lost hys Case;
Whereupon
Politickal obscuritie quicklie descended
Upon hym;
And,
Ere longge
Ye House of Commons knewe hym no more.

Nay, Stranger, doe notte stoppe; noe neede
Toe mourne for hym below,
Who was of ye self-ryghteous breede,
As all hys lyfe dyde show;
Pass on, and breathe a purer ayre
Inne whyche hys clay hath hadde nee share.

"CEMENT OF EMPIRE."

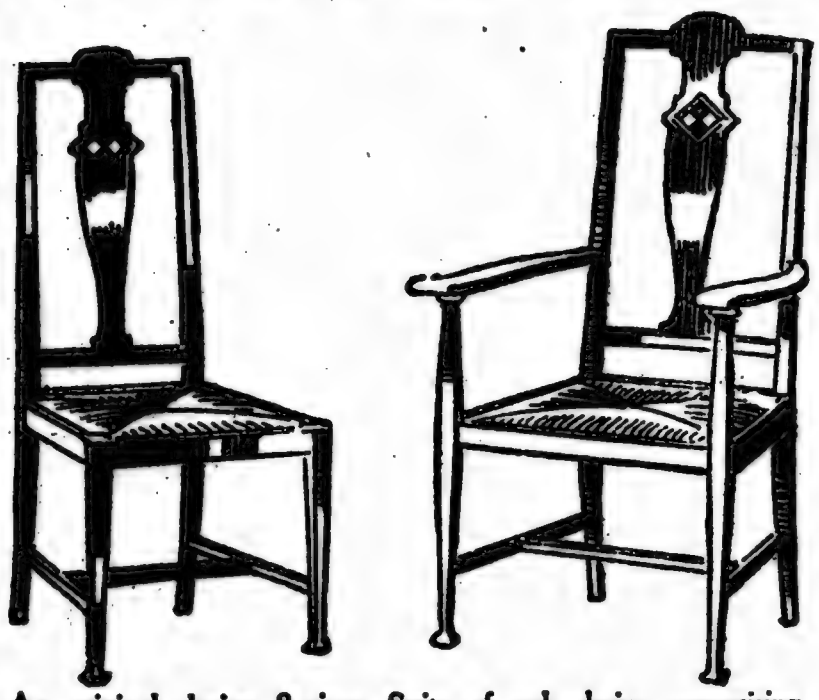
(Sir Joseph Ward, Prime Minister of New Zealand, says, "Mr. H. G. Wells's demand for some new cement of Empire may be met by the Imperial Council which I suggest.")

The British Empire needs no new cement,
It can defy all storm and stress of weather,
If sons and mother are alike content,
Shoulder to shoulder, to stick close together.

FURNISH OUT OF INCOME.

We recognise the fact that even people with large incomes at times do not find it convenient to pay down a large sum of money to purchase furniture. For this particular reason we have made a speciality of selling furniture of the best quality on the Deferred Payment System. Our system of gradual payments is the most equitable method for those wishing to pay for their furniture out of income rather than out of capital. All goods are marked in plain figures and we do not ask for any deposit, neither is any interest whatsoever added nor any extra charge made and the payments if desired can be extended over 1, 2 or 3 years at the option of the purchaser.

Our goods are of a quality which has made our name famous in the Furnishing World and anything we sell can always be relied upon. We have a large staff of artists who are turning out daily new and original designs.



An original design 8-piece Suite of oak chairs, comprising 2 elbow chairs and 6 smalls; the backs are inlaid with boxwood and ebony **£7 17 6** the Suite

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HOLBORN, LONDON, W.C.

Six doors from the Holborn Restaurant and Holborn Station (G.N., P. & B. Rly.), 1 minute from British Museum Station (Central London Railway), and 3 minutes from Oxford Street.

COLOURS.

By Jim Crow.

[Mr. James Crow is our Licensed Crank. A brilliant exponent of unconventional ideas—invariably distorted and lacking in perspective; cynical and epigrammatic in expression—he is a journalistic cat amongst the pigeons. We accept no responsibility for his opinions—or his life.]

I never quite understood why violet and indigo were included in the spectrum. They are scarcely separate colours. Green and orange are only mixtures, when you come to think of it. We hear a great deal from poets and painters and others interested persons about the brilliant glories of Nature, but really Nature has been very sparing in the matter of colours. We might reduce them to blue and red with just a faint doubt about the admission of yellow.

Visionary Violet.

I suppose it is the natural melancholy of my Irish temperament which induces me to prefer violet above all other hues. It suggests royal mourning and the penance of Lent and the sweet modesty of the simplest flower,—a trinity in full accord with my character. Violet is always soothing and recalls everything that is most picturesque in scenery: sunset seas, purple hills, lordly vineyards. It conjures up visions of high altars and clouds of incense and those great delightful bottles in chemists' shops. It concentrates its charms in the gracious amethyst, which if a man wear, he may drink for ever without fear of intoxication. As the complexion of middle-aged ladies and the toper's bowsprit, violet conveys a warning as well as a reminiscence of bygone joys.

Insidious Indigo.

Here is the hue of southern seas at noon-tide. It fills your soul and blinds your eyes and mobilises your imagination in the isles of Greece, on sun-stained shores. It is almost brutal in its voluptuousness. It afforded an appropriate pigment for our ancestors before they had been driven by a false sense of shame to hide their charms in clothes.

True Blue.

The blues are a vulgar synonym for melancholy, blue stockings for pedantry; but blue can be quite bright and cheerful. Indeed, blue stories are sometimes so vivacious that they have to be restricted to the smoking-room. We hear, however, of the blue funk, which characterises the attitude of certain patriots towards Germany, and the blue water school, which seeks to multiply naval armaments at the expense of our suffering poor. Another sinister aspect is provided by the definition of the French flag: blue for cholera, white for famine and red for blood. Again, it is significant that, while violet stones preserve us against alcoholism, that form of madness finds expression in blue devils. I suppose that this colour was intended as a compliment when applied to the Danube, the brown river which is usually too sluggish to dream of waltzing. Anyhow, blue eyes are the prerogative of flappers in fiction, and are interpreted by physiognomists as emblems of innocence, sincerity, virginity, though a peculiar shade of china blue has acquired a reputation for treachery. Blue is the colour of Our Lady, has associations with the merry month of May, transfigures fields by whole cohorts of cornflowers. It dignified the bonnets of loyal Highlanders. On the other hand, it recalls the crimes of Bluebeard. So you see that you are entitled to regard it as beneficent or malevolent, just precisely as you please.

The Graces and Disgraces of Green.

That indeed applies to nearly every colour. Take green, which Bacon has associated with the monster of jealousy. You turn green when under the influence of envy, hatred or malice. Green is always unlucky, as the Emerald Isle knows to its cost. Green in your eye is a vulgar suggestion that you are half-witted or at least easily gulled. I do not know the origin of this, but suppose that it has something to do with the immaturity of buds and corn-blades. Yet green is far from immature. It is the predominating tone of nature, the emblem of spring and reproduction, most soothing to the eyes, emblematic of the freedom of the forest, of the restfulness of glades and groves, of the richness of fat pastures. It is the sacred colour of Islam, and inspires the faithful to the most fanatical sacrifices. Applied to a certain room, it calls up visions of Thespian voluptuousness. In conjunction with Lincoln, it reveals the healthy merriment of hunting-horns, the unsophisticated generosity of Robin Hood, the gay recklessness of the turf and the gaming-table,—in fine, all the jovial, unreasoning instincts of the sportsman.

The Yellow Peril.

I suppose poets and similar drivellers are responsible for the phrase red gold. But everything golden is yellow; and everything golden is very good. Sunshine consoles the afflicted, curls of molten gold illumine the paths of love; the golden age suggests a Business Government. Yet yellow is often sinister. Yellow fever, quarantine flags; Chinese mourning, jaundice, the baser journalism are conjured up. Yellow is the emblem of unfaithfulness. I defy anyone to feel comfortable in a yellow room. Characteristic expressions of this colour are to be found in bile, bad eggs, pinchbeck jewellery, inhospitable deserts; cess-pools, and post-impressionist daubs. What need we further witness?

Rotten Orange.

This hue is damned by memories of the Dutch invasion; which may, or may not, have saved us from Popery and wooden shoes, but which certainly gave us the National Debt, centuries of oppressive Whiggery, the Irish question and the present pretensions of Kill-joys. Even succulent fruits, gorgeous sunsets, Oriental draperies cannot neutralise the orange taint.

Ruddy Red.

Here at last we find colour and character. You may hate or dread it, but you may not escape its violent influence. As the flag or tie of a Socialist, it is a red rag to John Bull, and makes him see red. As the uniform of his braves, as a splash upon the map, it fires his enthusiasm. It is the accepted signal of danger on railways and outside the consulting rooms of qualified quacks. It only bores us when it intrudes upon the tangles of tape in our Government offices.

Rainbow Limitations.

I have now exhausted all the colours of the rainbow—which turn out to be a limited supply. Why does the rainbow ignore the brown of mother earth, the auburn of intoxicating hair, the sparkle of diamond and dew-drop, the effervescence of cataracts, the gleam of the glad eye? I remember having bets with schoolfellows on the point whether black and white are colours. We talk of white things as colourless, but it would have been more polite of a certain nobleman to call his black man "coloured." Surely any shade or absence of shade which affects our retina is a colour. Mix white or black with another pigment and a new hue appears. Even water, the colourless acme, alters the arrogance of absinthe, corrupts it with pernicious clouds.

Omnipotent Colour.

There is certainly more in colour than meets the eye. It penetrates the brain and inflames our whole being. I remember the talk of a great painter, who always described himself as a colourist. He said that, when he was a small boy, his mother could give him no greater pleasure than that of allowing him to gaze at the stone in her ring. Toffee and theatres had to take a back seat. Look again at liqueurs. They are mostly a mere compound of alcohol and sugar and flavouring matter. Most ladies drink them, not for the taste or the potency, but for their garish effulgence. Colour mesmerises, hypnotises, magnetises, overwhelms. I am convinced that, by a careful study of colour effects, vast influence might be exercised. Scientists admit that insects will behave differently according to the coloured glass imposed upon their nests. Very likely plants would be affected in the same way. Why not men and women? We know that the tones of our wall-papers and upholstery influence our point of view. Why not experiment upon ourselves with coloured atmospheres? As it is, half the devoutness in a cathedral is due to the stained glass in the windows.

Parti-coloured People.

Men have died for their colours on many a field. All zealous partisans challenge attention by the exhibition of colours or cockades. At one time the very Killjoys used to wear bits of ribbon in their buttonholes to proclaim their alcoholic remorse. In fact, colours are a primitive instinct, quite as much as religion and superstition and procreation and a taste for fermented liquors. The colour-blind can see nothing *couleur-de-rose*. Choler is the portion of the colourless.

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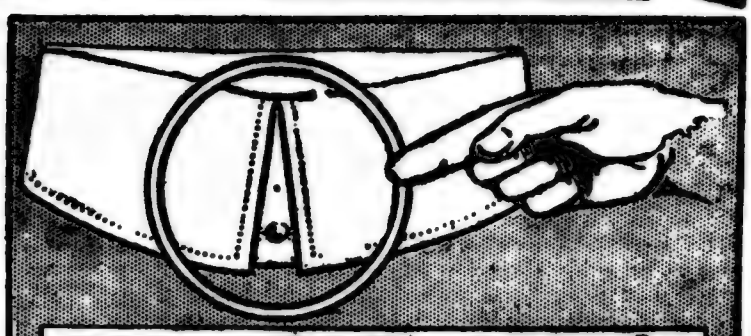

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OPEN LETTERS, POSTCARDS AND TELEGRAMS.

To Mr. Alderman Grimwade, Chairman of the Watch Committee, Ipswich.

MY DEAR GRIMFACE,—What a very remarkable chairman you are! A large fire broke out in Ipswich some two months since, and your report thereon has recently been presented to the Town Council.

It appears you have one fire engine, 26 years old, and another, which takes 20 minutes to get up steam. You also had, in 1910, 5,210 feet of hose—of this 2,000 feet was in "first-class condition" and 3,210 feet in "second-class condition.". I take it this means that 2,000 feet were fit for use, and 3,210 feet were more or less rotten. The Superintendent of your Fire Brigade "foreshadowed" before the fire that fully 1,000 feet of this house would be "practically killed" when it was next used. It was, therefore, you plain duty to replace it at once, and not to trifle with the public safety. You did not, however, rise to the occasion. The hose was used at the fire wrapped in sacks, no doubt to keep it from the cold, and if some 3,000 feet had not been lent to the Brigade, they would have been in a pretty mess. *After* the fire, you did condemn the faulty hose! Your Superintendent tries to save your face by remarking that. leaky as it was, it did the work, because where the pressure is great and the mains are large, leakage does not affect the jet so much as may be imagined. I like that Superintendent; he's a sport. You, however, go one better and say that if hose leaks slightly, the jet goes just as high, *if not a little higher.* Then you talk about bringing a fire-float up the river from a place twelve miles away, and you believe it would be possible to get it to Ipswich "in an hour's time"!

Finally, you give the whole show away by remarking that the Superintendent is "constantly anxious to have more fire appliances." Why don't you quit fooling and give him what he wants? What would the High Steward of your borough, Lord Kitchener, think of you and your precious Committee? I must ask him.

JOHN BULL.

To Bailie Allison, Kilsyth, Stirlingshire, N.B.

DEAR BAILIE,—A friend of mine saw you going to the Kirk the other day with an exceedingly large Bible under your arm. He also saw an advertisement in the local paper wherein you announce: "An amazing line of tweed trousers, all sizes, men's 2s. 11d., youths', 2s. 6d., made by British labour in well-ventilated factories under Government supervision, for trade union wages." And you are a deacon! How good a thing it is to be good!

JOHN BULL.

To the Lord Bishop of Stepney.

MY LORD,—I wish you would busy yourself with the physical and spiritual needs of your flock instead of starting agitations in favour of that wild goose chase, the conversion of the Jews. Do take my word for it, you might just as well try to extract sunbeams from cucumbers. And why do you suggest that "Good Friday is a most suitable day" to encourage this particular folly? If you want to convert Jews, surely it will be more tactful to make as few references to Good Friday as possible.

JOHN BULL.

To Mr. Will Crooks, M.P.

WEEPING WILLIE,—Sorry I could not be in the House the other night to support your proposal for minimum wage of 30s. to every worker. Should have moved amendment making it £2. May as well get something decent whilst we are about it.

By the way, what are the minimum earnings of the Agents of the Liverpool Victoria Legal Friendly Society—of which you are Trustee; and what is your remuneration for filling that office? I have recently been looking into the accounts of the Law Guarantee, Trust and Accident Society, and hope you are keeping a tighter hold on the purse than their officials did. Don't let your heart run away with your head—whatever your political views.

JOHN BULL.

To the Coroner, Newbury.

SIR,—I think you will agree with me that the evidence at the inquest on the man Cooper, an inmate of Newbury Workhouse, ought to be the subject of investigation by the Guardians. Generally, it amounts to this: On a recent bitterly cold morning, Cooper was taken off his work in the woodshed and ordered out to the garden to do some digging. He protested that he did not feel well enough for the work, but eventually went out. Two other men were with him, and according to them he repeatedly fell down during the afternoon, complaining that he could not go on. At intervals, the Master of the Workhouse and the Labour Master saw him. They say that he had shammed illness before, and they took no notice of him. At five o'clock, the man was unable to walk, and his two mates had to assist him into the House. According to their account, the Labour Master met them, and told them to put the man down and leave him. From five o'clock until seven he was allowed to lie in the bitter cold. Then it was reported to the Master that he had not returned. A search was made, and he was found in a state of utter collapse, and carried indoors, where an attempt was made to revive him with brandy. Afterwards he was taken to the infirmary and a doctor was sent for, but he died before the doctor's arrival.

In the opinion of the Medical Officer who made the post-mortem examination, the cause of death "was probably the effect of cold upon a debilitated constitution." To their verdict that death was due to natural causes the jury added a rider that the man "should have received more sympathetic treatment from the officials."

I greatly doubt whether the alleged shamming of this man on previous occasions was shamming at all, and the conduct of the officials in leaving the old man lying in the cold for two hours, with not a soul to watch him or care whether he was shamming or dying, is neglect so shameful that the mild rider of the jury seems a ludicrously inadequate censure. I take it, sir, that the Guardians have a complete note of the evidence in the case, and that they will deal with the officials concerned to the full measure of their deserts. I must see to it that they do.

JOHN BULL.

To the Rev. O. Bowen, B.A., Cory Hall, Cardiff.

DEAR MR. BOWEN,—I have watched with interest and sympathy the progress of the proceedings by which the trustees of Longcross Street Baptist Church have at length compassed your eviction from a pulpit in which, according to all accounts, you have ministered with such great usefulness. The trustees would have the old worn-out dogmas and doctrines preached and taught to the letter of the trust deed, and bigotry and intolerance—backed by all those means which make law so cheap to the rich and so dear to the poor—have triumphed. It was not worth while fighting a lawsuit in the circumstances; as tittle worth it as the sacrifice of conscience and reasoning faith to the cracked and broken vessels of theology bestrewing the rapidly emptying tabernacles upon which the new generation looks but to turn away. Let those who will, preach to empty pews. Keep the living and not the dead message on your lips and in your heart, and all will be well with you. Your congregation is with you. They have stood by you with a loyalty which says everything for your work among them. When last I wrote to you, I advised them to go out with you and break fresh ground. This I am glad to see they have done; and if anybody with me and with you for freedom of conscience, for hatred of intolerance, for disgust of bigotry, and for contempt of self-righteousness is able and willing to aid you with such money as you need for a new church worthy of so brave and so right a battle for good things, I trust he will stand forth quickly and speak.

JOHN BULL.

Jan Kubelik, Violinist, Paris.

Hear with pleasure that as result concert tour last year you made income £53,000. Ought to encourage other fiddlers who just manage to scrape through life. BULL.

John Wilson, M.P., House of Commons.

Notice your statement miners do not wish baths at pit as proposed Miners' Bill. Was afraid proposal wouldn't wash. BULL.

EDEN UP TO DATE.

UNCLE SAM: "There, Britty darling, he will never come between us any more!"

JOHN BULL IN THE CITY.

By Verax.

After the Severe Liquidation a Brighter Outlook—Monetary Position Improves—May Expected to be Very Busy.

I suggested a week ago that there would be more profit-taking and liquidation in *Home Rails*, and this has happened, at times being very severe. The result is, however, that the speculative account is greatly reduced, and there should now be fair sailing in this market. *Yankees* have at times shown a firmer tone, but the outlook is still doubtful, while, on the other hand, *Canadian Pacifics* are being bought for German and American account, marking, at 239½, a fresh record. A large business has been transacted in *Oil shares*, amongst which the *Maikop* division is very strong, and *Rubber shares* are also mending. *South African Mines* are still dull, but *Rhodesians* are evidently preparing for an upward movement. Although the cheques of a firm with Birmingham connections were returned on pay-day, in connection with heavy liquidation in *London General Omnibus* and *Home Rails*, that account has evidently been arranged. The monetary position is more promising, as the excessive Government balances must soon be disbursed, and now that the 1st of May holiday has been surmounted, the Stock Exchange looks for a very active month.

The Reaction in Home Rails—Present Position and Prospects.

I think my readers will credit me with a good deal of discrimination in advising them with regard to their operations in Home Railway stocks. I was one of the first in the flat time to draw attention to the excellent margin which existed in this section for a big rise, and especially when *Brighton "A"* were at 90, and other Home Railway stocks also still at very moderate prices, I strongly urged investment, or call it speculative investment. Many of the readers of John Bull took my advice, with the result that in the case of *Brighton "A"* they had, if they had stuck to them, profits of about 22 points to take, besides the dividend of 5 per cent. Then came a period of inflation, and however favourably one may think of a particular group of stocks, high contangoes are a danger signal not to be disregarded. I therefore took the view that it would not be wise to follow this rise too far, and while I am still of opinion that there will be a good market in Home Railway stocks in the current year, I think those were wisest who took my advice to take profits. To show the fall which has taken place from practically the highest point, I give herewith a table showing the prices on April 10th and at present, together with the dividends for 1910, and the yield on that basis :—

	Dividend per cent. per ann.	Price, April 10.	Present Price.	Yield p.c. per ann. £ s. d
Caledonian Deferred ..	½	28½	28½	1 6 6
Furness	2½	52	51	4 3 3
Gt. Cent. Pref. Ord. ..	—	35½	35½	—
Great Eastern ..	3½	76½	76½	4 1 6
Gt. Northern Deferred ..	2½	57	55½	4 1 0
Great Western ..	5½	134½	134	4 5 9
Hull and Barnsley ..	3½	73⅜	71½	5 1 6
Lancs. and Yorkshire ..	4½	103½	101	4 6 9
London & North Western	6½	149½	147½	4 8 6
London & S. West. Def.	2½	55	53	4 0 3
London Brighton Def. ..	4½	112½	109½	4 7 3
London Chatham	—	28½	27½	—
London, Tilbury	6	146	148	4 1 0
Metropolitan ..	2½	55½	53	2 12 0
Metropolitan District ..	—	32½	33½	—
Midland Deferred	3½	78	77½	4 10 0
North British	½	35½	34½	2 10 3
North Eastern	6	138½	137½	4 7 3
North Staffs	4½	99	98	4 11 9
South Eastern "A" ..	—	59	56½	2 15 6

The fall has been very substantial, and it will be seen that it has been most important in the passenger stocks. *Brighton "A,"* in fact, at one time were sold down to 106, *Dover "A"* to 54; little *Chathams* had, in the meantime, also risen to over 19, and are now about 2 below the best, while *Metropolitan*, from about 55, are down at 53, after touching 50. Even lower prices have been touched during the process of adjusting the last account, when some forced closing had to be carried out. With regard to the *Heavy* stocks, the falls have been comparatively moderate in these, and the excellent traffic returns which some of these can boast of are certainly giving good support. Even the traffics for the Easter period are satisfactory, although they are by no means sensational, and this is perhaps one of the reasons why the market has not responded to them to any extent. For the past week, for instance, *North Western* had a decrease of £5,000, *Midland* one of £14,000, while the *Great Western* increase was only £2,000, and the *North Eastern* £4,199. The passenger stocks did better, the *Brighton* increase being £9,508, the *South Eastern and Chatham* £9,014; but we must not forget that for the current half-year the aggregate increase to date is, in the case of the *Great Western*, £93,000, in *North Western* £142,000, of the *Midland* £112,000, of the *North Eastern* £183,000; so that the *Heavy* stocks have piled up a very fair increase. The *Brighton*, with its aggregate increase of £4,261, does not show so well, but the *South Eastern and Chatham* with £25,900 is by no means unsatisfactory; while the *Great Eastern* increase of £29,500 is fairly satisfactory. The aggregate *Metropolitan* increase is £7,148, and the aggregate *Metropolitan District* £14,027, but I expressed the view some time ago that *Metropolitan* had been pushed ahead too fast. The prospects now are distinctly satisfactory, as the speculative account has been reduced to moderate dimensions. In the case of the *Heavy* rails, the splendid Board of Trade returns presage continued large increases, and, therefore, increased dividends at the end of the half-year, while the Passenger stocks will receive a strong fillip from the excellent traffics which are likely to precede and to accompany the Coronation festivities.

Prolonged Liquidation Exhausts Rubbers—Market Position Much Sounder—What Buyers Should Do Now.

The prolonged liquidation which has been going on in rubber shares has left the market in an exhausted, albeit much sounder position. It would now only require some definitely favourable development in connection with the commodity itself to set things going again upwards. That depends upon the further unfolding of the plans of the Brazilian Syndicate, and all the indications go to show that the Governments of Para and Amazonas, and possibly the Brazilian Federal Government itself, will afford what further necessary aid is required in carrying out the Valorisation scheme. The controlling power of the Syndicate has been put to a severe test by the recent slump, and in usually well-informed quarters the rebound will be sharp. The statistical position of Para rubber is quite sound, the receipts for April up to the 20th ult. amounting to 2,440 tons, making a total for the season to date of 31,670 tons, as compared with 35,780 tons for the corresponding period of 1909-10. Stocks in the hands of manufacturers in this country, on the Continent, and in the United States are very low, as consumers have lately only been buying from hand-to-mouth, and consequently directly they appear in the market prices go up with a bound. *Linggis* are slowly rallying at 48s. 9d., and numerous transactions have taken place in its new subsidiary, the *Port Dickson*, at 7½d. per share premium already, before the prospectus came out. I do not like these dealings in the dark, and they never do a company any good in the long run. Continued denials are forthcoming of the recent adverse rumours concerning *Vallambrosa*, but nevertheless the shares are unable to make much headway from 34s. *Anglo-Malay*, on the other hand, have been receiving consistent support in the neighbourhood of 21s. The "heavy" shares have naturally suffered severely in the recent slump, which emphasises my point that operations in such shares had better be left entirely to the rich few. On the other hand, those who want to buy shares for a lock-up, and not to take much risk, cannot do better than devote some attention to, say, *Jequie* at 3s. 9d., *West Jequie* at 2s. 3d., *Island Para* at 2s. 3d., and *David Young* at 2s. 3d. This quartette are already actually producing rubber, and, as they are wild-rubber properties, they can produce at a very low cost, and are not faced with the problem of steadily rising working expenditure and scarcity of labour, as is the case with the majority of the plantation companies in the Middle East.

A Firm Oil Share Market—Maikop Shares Still in Favour—Developments Closely Watched.

I have been overwhelmed with enquiries from readers who have made big profits in *Black Sea Oilfields Ordinary* and *Prefs.*, to tell them what they should buy next. *Black Sea Oilfields* themselves still have excellent prospects at their present price of 1⅝ for *Ordinary*, but I think it is probable that the other oil shares which I mentioned in last week's issue may have a rise sooner than *Black Seas*. I speak, of course, of the Maikop issues, all of which are benefited by the working of the pipe-line. With regard to that, cables have been received to the effect that 730,000 poods have been pumped from Shirvansky, that the stock at Hadijensky is 180,000, and that the Shirvansky pump is improving, the present rate of pumping being 55,000 poods daily. In the meantime, a considerable quantity has been pumped for the *Maikop Victory*, the shares in which have improved to ⅛ premium, while *London and Maikop Corporation* £1 shares, 10s. paid, are hardening at ⅛ premium. This Company will effect a junction with the pipe-line almost immediately, when we shall probably see a further rise. *Maikop Valley Prefs.* are still quoted about ⅛ to ⅛ discount, although they are worth

more, and *Maikop Pipe Line Ordinary* are firm at 27s., while the *Deferred* have improved to 18s., and will doubtless go farther ahead. *Shell Transport* have been easier at 88s. 6d., but *Spies Petroleum*, after shaking themselves free from Paris influences, were steady at 37s. 6d. A jump took place in *Ural Caspians*, the price rising from 7s. 6d. to 12s. 6d., but very little is known about this concern. *Anglo-Maikop* have been advancing, and they close distinctly better at 2⅜. *Mexican Eagles* improved to 34s. 9d. *Cheleken Oilfields* are steadier at 1⅜, and are likely to improve again, while *Oil Trust of Galicia* are a good feature at 1 9-16 premium. *Egyptian Oil Trust "A"* are quoted 3 15-16, *Red Sea Oilfields* 1⅛. *Maikop and Eastern* shares in some request at 2s. to 2s. 3d., and *General Oil and Finance* are bid for at "par."

THE MOTOR-'BUS QUESTION—WHAT A NEW COMPETITOR WILL HAVE TO FACE.

I am ever one of the first to rejoice at any improvement in the facilities for traffic in the metropolis, but when competition culminates in a fight which would be likely to disorganise this important traffic for years, I think a halt should be called. Hardly had the various motor-'bus companies been absorbed by the *London General Omnibus Company* than a fresh trouble arises, new competition now being spoken of, and this after the *General Omnibus*, the *Road Car*, and the *Vanguard*, when working separately, had made losses of a quarter of a million sterling in the year 1908. Gradually the absorbing company has pulled itself together, until it is now making a decent profit, which apparently amounted to about £95,000 in the fiscal year ended September 30th last—not a very great profit to reap after all the losses and difficulties, and now comes from Birmingham the threat of a very serious competition under the auspices of a leading manufacturing company. We hear all kinds of things about the superiority of a new 'bus, and how it will pass the stringent police regulations, yet the *General Omnibus* has held the field so long that any new competitor would have all its work cut out to meet the competition of the omnibuses, of the new County Council tramways, not to forget the keen underground fight for traffic. I find that twelve different motor-'bus companies, which were floated at the height of the boom in 1906-7, have practically all come to grief, the amount of capital involved being something like £3,000,000 sterling. In fact, of the newer companies, only one, the *Great Eastern*, has been able to hold its head above water, and that has lately been absorbed by the *London General Omnibus*. Are we, then, to go again through the farce of this new competition and a fresh upset of the traffic of London, to be succeeded finally by a similar result? I understand that the *London General Omnibus Company* is determined to resist this aggression to the utmost, and that it also is amply backed for the purpose, while, if necessary, it will no doubt enter upon a drastic fare-cutting scheme, which, of course, will prevent any profitable working of the new company for years to come. The new "B" motor-'buses now being turned out by the *General Omnibus Company*, moreover, are spoken very highly of in competent circles, and will be found hard to beat. The company has now about 1,100 'buses, including the *Great Eastern's* recently taken over, and when, by the end of October, they have 1,400 working, there will not be left a single route uncovered that might possibly prove remunerative. What chance has a new competing company against an undertaking in so strong a position? While the *London General* may have to make sacrifices the shareholders in the new company are bound to lose their money. How will they like the prospect?

POTENTIALITIES OF RHODESIANS—HARMONY TO THE FRONT—CHILLAGOES RISE.

For various reasons, mostly of a temporary character, the Mining department has been more or less under a cloud of late, but it is my firm belief that *Rhodesians* will prove the redeeming feature. *Chartered*, for instance, are considered to be worth nearer 2 than the present quotation of 1¾, and in this connection it is significant that important option transactions have been entered into for the end of the year on behalf of people who are in the best position to judge of the position and prospects. Moreover, the *Liebig Company* are now undertaking the active development of their fifty-thousand acre acquisition in Rhodesia for ranching purposes. The shortening of the railway route to Rhodesia must also accelerate the development of the country and help to reduce working costs on the gold mines. Amongst the latter I know of no more promising shares going than *Lonely Reefs* at 3⅜, *Hay Gold Mines* at 1 11-16, *Falcon* at 1¾, *Rhodesia Exploration* at 2⅜, *Amalgamated Props.* at 7s. 3d. *Selukwe Columbia* are also worthy of attention at about 13-16, the latest information being to the effect that the main reef has been struck at No. 7 level, western section, value 16 dwts. across 32 ins. To those on the look-out for still cheaper, albeit promising Rhodesian shares, I commend the shares of the "*Gem*" *(Rhodesia) Goldfields*, of 5s. each, and quoted at 6s. to 6s. 6d. With an authorised capital of £75,000, this company has acquired the Gem Gold Mine, situated in the Hartley district, consisting of 50 claims. A certain amount of work has been carried out, and 1,077 tons of development ore yielded over 374 ounces of gold, equal to 6.9 dwts. per ton. That the reef goes down is shown by the fact that at the bottom of the 140 ft. shaft it is about 6ft. wide, carrying good gold and showing over 8 dwts. per ton. Several experts have reported upon the property, and to judge from their statements it is likely to develop into a big and paying proposition. The Copper market has been dull, and likely to remain so, in view of latest developments in New York, where an open market has been declared in the metal. Some of the cheap shares are still worthy of attention, especially *Chillagoes*, which have improved to 6s. 9d. on the announcement that traffic has been resumed on the Government line; that fuel is now going through to Chillagoe, that the loading of smelter has just commenced, and that normal conditions are now prevailing on all lines. *Harmony Proprietary* shares are now up at 7s., and with the advent of the railway should come into demand. *Harmony Development and Finance* shares, which have the right to select mynpachts on some of the most valuable of the farms, are being dealt in at 2s. 6d. per 2s. share. By the way, the shares in the *Ontario Porcupine Goldfields Development Company* are now in demand at ½ premium.

JOHN BULL'S FINANCIAL LETTER-BOX.

(1) Letters containing inquiries must be addressed to the City Editor, JOHN BULL, 2, Copthall Buildings, E.C. The names and addresses of correspondents must be enclosed, not, of course, for publication, but as token of good faith. Anonymous communications will be disregarded.

(2) Correspondents should adopt either a nom-de-plume, or mention initials, under which the replies will appear in the paper. The stocks or subjects inquired about should also be numbered.

(3) Replies are made only in the ordinary way through the columns of this journal under the above heading, and not by letter.

(4) In no circumstances will the proprietors undertake the sale or purchase of stocks or shares.

(5) If inquirers wish it, for transacting business, the names and addresses of respectable firms of stockbrokers, members of the London Stock Exchange, will be supplied to them, in which case a stamped addressed envelope must be enclosed.

(6) A Postal Order for 1/- must accompany each Financial or Insurance Enquiry.

TRUST.—J. G. L.—I do not like this kind of concern, and you will find it more advantageous and safer to keep your money in the Post Office Savings Bank, if the amount is not large enough to invest in sound securities. GAMOS.—I do not like this kind of concern, and advise you to withdraw from it as soon as practicable.

WINE AND SPIRIT TRAVELLER AND DEPOSIT.—A. C. T.—The question of leaving money with the firm in question is really one which you should decide yourself, but if it has to be deposited it is quite out of the question to use such deposit as the basis of speculation.

4 TO 4½ PER CENT. INVESTMENT.—CLIFTON.—You can get this return by investing in Home Rails, especially while they are easier now. I do not think so much of the telephone shares mentioned.

PREMIUM BONDS.—J. I. K. (Stoke-on-Trent).—As requested, I send you the name of a firm of foreign bankers in London who make a speciality of Premium Bonds. As regards the new Aviation Company, I think you had better allow other people to make the experiment before buying the shares. A. D. (Johannesburg).—No, the foreign firm in question is not to be trusted, as they charge prices far above the market value. You can buy cheaper through the firm whose name I send you, who make a speciality of the matter. L. P.—No, I do not advise dealing with these foreign people, who are not reliable, and who charge considerably more than market price when buying, and less when selling. I send you the name of a thoroughly reliable firm of foreign bankers in London, who will treat you well.

GRAND TRUNK ORDINARY.—A. C. P.—Yes, this would be a fair investment as a lock-up for a couple of years, if you are prepared to wait with patience.

LARGE OPTION DEALING.—GAME.—No doubt there are stockbrokers, members of the Stock Exchange, who would deal in an option of shares as you propose, but you would have to give the firm the fullest references. You had better try one of the London stockbrokers whose name I send you.

OIL AND RUBBER SHARES.—SCOTCH WHISKEY.—As you propose to buy low-priced rubber and oil shares, you might select Island Para amongst the former, but Black Sea Oilfields are too dear now. You should choose out of the other Maikop shares from my article.

VANGUARD MOTOR AFFAIRS.—WEXFORD.—The affairs of the Vanguard Motor Company are so confused that it is quite impossible to tell you whether you, as a holder of London and Provincial Motor 'Bus shares, will obtain any interest in the General Omnibus Company, which has acquired the Vanguard Motor 'Bus Company. You should apply to the secretary. There is a rumour now that the L.G.O. will give better terms.

SOUTH EASTERN ORDINARY.—N. A.—At the time of writing, the price is 9½. Compared with the Deferred shares they have not yet had enough rise, but you must remember that it is never possible to sell right at the top.

TAILORS' BANKING DEPARTMENT.—BASS.—As a general rule, I do not like deposits made with firms such as tailors and others, and I do not, therefore, think much of the banking department in question. Interest at 5½ per cent. per annum is rather too high to be safe. The documents are returned.

REPLY BY TELEGRAM.—T. Y. (Bow).—I cannot reply by telegram and amongst the oil shares, apart from Black Sea Oilfields Ordinary, in case they fall further, my favourites are Maikop Victory Ordinary at 5-16 premium, Maikop Valley Prefs., £1 shares 15s. paid, at 1-16 dis., and Cheleken Oilfields at 1⅜ for special settlement, which will probably take place in about a month.

UTAH BINGHAM.—WHITE ROSE.—I do not see at present any temptation to buy these shares. There are too many of these shares in various hands, and until the mine actually produces it would be wise to stand aside.

Debenture Stock Investment.—W. M. (Maidstone).—I cannot, in any circumstances, become the intermediary for the sale of stocks and shares. If you wish to sell the debenture stock in question and have not a stockbroker through whom to place it, I shall be pleased to send you the name of a member of the Stock Exchange.

Foreign Land Investment.—J. H. (Birmingham).—There are considerable possibilities in it, but it is, of course, speculative, and you cannot consider it a safe investment, such as gilt-edged securities. Same reply to M. R. (Hornsey). F. H. (Gray's Inn Road).—There are great possibilities in connection with this concern, but it is, of course, speculative, and you will have to decide yourself whether to go into it. Novice (Kensington).—Same reply. H. S.—There are no doubt great possibilities in connection with this matter, but, of course, it is a speculation, and you must take your own decision. Same reply to Edinburgh Mac., and to Nemo (West Kensington).—I should think you cannot do better than carry out your intention and run over to see for yourself. D. T. (Perth).—Same reply as to "H. S." I have no reason to doubt that the company is registered, as stated on all the documents. With regard to the outside brokers mentioned, I have had no complaint, but you are, of course, aware that, as a matter of principle, I do not recommend outside brokers. Prospective (Perthshire).—Same reply as to "H. S."

Cotton Growing.—Felix.—I certainly cannot advise you to take up shares in the Felix Cotton Company. The matter seems to me too much in the air.

Firelighters.—J. W.—Such small companies do not usually succeed, and I cannot recommend the investment. The prospectus is returned.

Option Dealing.—C. B. (Holloway).—No, I do not recommend these options.

Hot Air or Bona-Fide Business.—D. V. P. (Calgary).—I think this is rather the former than the latter; you had better leave it alone—it is highly speculative.

Oils and Rubbers.—Crudekop.—(1) No option but to hold these rubber shares. You paid a very high price, but the company should come right eventually. (2) A promising Maikop enterprise, and you should more than see your money back on them. A. B. C.—Yes, the oil shares are worth keeping. I am by no means sure about the rubber company, which has already had a very chequered career; sell if you can. A. E.—Thanks for suggestion for biscuit. I do not like the oil shares, and you will find far more promising ones specially referred to in my article.

Rubbers.—Carl.—I do not like any of the shares mentioned. The following would be a much better selection:—Jequie, West Jequie, and Island Paras. Harlowite.—There is no particular choice, but perhaps you had better select No. 2 to sell. As regards other purchases, see reply to "Carl." Lanarkshire.—This company is apparently suffering from want of capital, and no doubt the management could also do with a shake up. There is no market, and you ought to get into communication with some of the larger shareholders in order to take common action for the purpose of revivifying the concern. Provincial.—(1) I do not care for any of these Rubber shares. (2) This selection is distinctly preferable (3) As regards oil shares suitable for present purchase, consult my article on the subject. Tiger.—Yes, keep your various Rubber shares. You bought very high up, and although they may not reach that level again, a substantial recovery upon the present price would be justified. A. W.—I cannot find out anything regarding the Selangor United Rubber Estates. Can any of my readers put me in possession of some information regarding it? F. S. C.—Instead of buying more of the first-mentioned shares, consult my article on Rubbers, and take a hint therefrom. B. P. (Plymouth).—No option but to hold both shares for the present. North Borneo State Rubber are quoted at 1 1-16, if these are what you mean. D. F. A.—I prefer the selection of Rubber shares mentioned in my article. I do not advise investment in the beet sugar concern referred to. There are other far more promising Industrial shares available. Unrubbery.—Better hold both rubber shares now, but Straits Dertam are undoubtedly the best one of the two.

Rink; Rubber.—G. S. G. (Dundee).—(1) No market, and I am afraid worth little or nothing. (2) Ditto.

Discomfited Speculator in Black Sea Oils.—Y. Z.—You certainly have been very unfortunate in your dealings in Black Sea Oilfields—buying them at 32s., allowing them to go to 38s. without taking your profit, and then, when the price fell away, selling in a funk at a loss, while you could over and over again have got 36s. or 37s. (1) I think you had better leave these alone now, and deal in some of the other Maikop shares mentioned in my article. (2) Quite high enough. (3) It is no use going into these again. (4) You should be guided by my article.

£600 Policy.—B. F. (Somerset).—This is a thoroughly reliable institution, and there is no reason for making a change

House Association.—Jimmy.—I have always had very great doubts with regard to the bonds issued by this concern. At the same time, you should not lose your money altogether, but should try to obtain a fair price.

Oils; Tin.—Scotland (Bolton).—See my article on Oils; my latest favourites are Maikop Victory at 5-16 prem., London and Maikop at 1-16 prem., and Maikop Pipe Line Deferred at 18s. As regards Tin shares, Nigerian Tin and Bukobo are preferable.

Calcutta Sweepstake.—In reply to many enquiries, orders would have to be sent by cable to the secretary of the Calcutta Turf Club, 38, Theodore Road, Calcutta, and you will have to cable also about 15s. per ticket. Letters will now probably be too late.

Investment of £100, to yield 6 per cent.—Peak.—You are doubtless aware that in order to obtain a return of 6 per cent. you will have to run some risk. You would either have to go to foreign parts, and select, say, Otago Harbour Board stock, yielding 6 per cent., or Home Industrial stocks, or Brazil Great Southern Sterling Debentures, also yielding about that amount, or British Industrials, say D. H. Evans Ordinary £1 shares at 3, yielding £6 4s. per cent. Personally I should advise you to be satisfied with 4½ per cent., which you can get in various Home Railway stocks mentioned in my table to-day. (1) I cannot recommend a stockbroker in Manchester. (2 and 3).—No, instead invest it in sound securities

Safety of Five Investments.—Safety.—(1) This is, of course, an excellent investment. (2) Saskatchewan 4 per cent. Bonds, and (3) City of Calgary 4½ per cent. Bonds belong to Canadian investments, which look very promising. This also applies to No. 4, and there is no reason to sell No. 5.

Advertising Agency as Investment.—True Blue.—This is only a private limited company, and it is, therefore, impossible to obtain all the information. I am afraid, however, that for your purpose this would not be a suitable investment, as you must absolutely have stocks which are quite safe.

£1,500 Investment.—S. P. F.—In the first place, put some of the money into the Home Railway Preferred Ordinary stocks, given in a special table last week. Then you might also devote some attention to the Chilian 1889 4½ per cent. Gold Loan, at 98; Japanese Four per Cents., at 91½; Grand Trunk First Preference, at 112s; Antofagasta Railway Debentures 5 per cent., at 114s; J. Lyons and Co. 5 per cent. Cumulative Preference £1 shares, at 1 3-16. (1) Not now; you can do better in some of the other Maikop shares specially recommended in my article. (2 and 3) Island Paras are very cheap. (4) Members of the Stock Exchange, and nothing against them.

3½ per cent. Securities.—Torpedo.—India 3 per cent., at 94, Belfast 3½ per cent., at 97; Newfoundland 3½ per cent., at 97; Western Australian 3½ per cent., at 96½; London and South Western Railway 3 per cent. Debentures, at 83½; Metropolitan Railway 3½ per cent. Debentures, at 95

Argentine Great Western Debs.—Kenfifps.—(1) Yes. (2) About 113. (3) Yes, your broker will tell you. (4) Yes.

5 per Cent. Investments.—G.—(1) I do not like this kind of investment. Sound securities are far preferable. (2) See the list of securities given above in reply to "S. P. F."

Miscellaneous.—Disappointed (Belfast).—Your holdings are not first-class, but, *nil desperandum*, they should improve again as soon as the various markets pull themselves together. I like least Selukwe (No. 6), which should be sold directly opportunity offers.

Uganda Trading Co.—Snatchblock.—No information is available in the usual books of reference with regard to this concern, and I advise you to be very careful. A guarantee by an assurance society should answer the same purpose as putting up a cash guarantee.

Low-Priced Kaffir.—H. W.—I do not like this share. You can do much better in the other Kaffir and Rhodesian shares mentioned in my letter.

Mortgage Co.—North.—(1) I do not like this kind of concern, especially with uncalled liability. Sell as soon as you can. (2) Put the money into oil and mining shares, regarding which you will find some useful hints in my articles.

Mashonaland Consolidated.—E. E. I.—Island Para would be preferable to the rubber shares in question. I do not think that the Mashonaland Consolidated is likely to pay dividends yet, and you can do better in other Rhodesians.

Money Investments.—Northern (Ashton-under-Lyne).—In most daily newspapers of standing, and particularly the *Times*.

Japanese Gas Corporation.—G. B. E.—No information is available regarding this concern, and there is no market for its stocks.

School Debentures.—Salta-de-Laja.—I should be sorry to invest any money in this concern, if only for the reason that there is no market for its issues.

Four per Cent. Investments.—Bryn.—I place them in the order of merit as follows:—Swansea Harbour 4 per cent. (1); Capetown 4 per cent (3); Canadian Northern 4 per cent. Perp. Debs. (8); Grand Trunks Perp. 4 per cent. Debs. (9); Port of London 4 per cent. (16); Johannesburg Inscribed 4 per cent. (17).

Investment of £450.—A. Z. (Huddersfield).—I should not advise you to put the whole of this amount into oil shares. As it happens, Black Sea Oilfields (1) have advanced too rapidly. What you had better do is to put the larger portion into Home Railway Prefd. Ordinary stock, in which you can get something like 4½-¾ per cent., and then invest the rest in oil shares, with regard to which your broker can advise you, more especially if he is a member of the London Stock Exchange. (2) I do not think it will be wise to go in for rubber shares just now—wait until one can see more clearly.

Sale of Property.—Cymro.—If you are interested in the property in question, you can, of course, ask for an official account, and in case of need, employ a solicitor.

Cuban Shares.—Nemo.—I really do not know what you expect. This was the substance of a prospectus, and I have heard nothing against it. As to Vendor shares, they would not be at present good delivery, and I know nothing about them.

Three per Cent Investment.—P. W. R.—The best thing to do with your £80 would be to put it into Home Railway Prefd. Ordinary shares, such as are contained in last week's article, in which you can get something like 4¼ per cent. or more. That would be better than having it at the bank at 3 per cent., and the shares could be easily realised.

(A large number of replies are unavoidably held over.)

INSURANCE REPLIES.

Insurance Enquiries should be addressed Insurance Editor, 93, Long Acre, W.C.

Prudential Assurance Co.—J. L. (Glasgow).—The policy would seem to be all right. A. S. (Lancaster).—The company might pay as an act of grace, but there is no legal obligation. We return your policies. B. B. (Leicester).—There is no insurable interest. We return policy. E. B. C. (Dover).—We are obliged by your suggestion, which will have consideration. W. J. H. (Cricklewood).—It is impossible for us to give you an answer unless you give us fuller particulars as to the policy. D. R. W. (Knattsbro).—There would appear to be no insurable interest. S. M. (Dalmuir).—We do not know how you are to get it except by applying at the head office, and we think it very doubtful whether you will get it even then. Your wife acted unwisely in the matter. P. and W. S. (London).—We take it that the company would be entitled to the larger premium. W. A. (Ulverstone).—The claim is not enforceable, but probably they will pay. We return policy. H. E. B. (Shipley).—You should communicate your correct age to the office. The amount on a free policy will be very much less than the face value of the original one. We return your policy. X Y. Z. (Guildford).—You will not get £15 each. All you will get is £2 8s. for the two. We return your policies. W. A. P. (East Dulwich).—They seem to be in order.

Scottish Temperance Life Assurance Co.—C. A. J. (Wood Green).—Yes, quite.

Two Friendly Societies.—A. W. N. (Swansea).—We know nothing against either.

Assignment of Policy.—E. T. (Chesterfield).—The transaction would appear to be a feasible one, but as the amount involved is a considerable one, you should consult a solicitor. You appear, however, to have paid a considerable portion of the money before seeking advice.

London and Manchester Industrial Assurance Co.—J. S. (Gravesend).—The policies are invalid. We return them.

Refuge Assurance Co.—S G. (Malvern Link).—The answer to both your questions is in the negative. Obviously, there would be nothing said on the face of the policy about uninsurable interest. F. H. (Belvedere).—We should be disposed to give the receipt and accept the money already received as final. You are fortunate in getting it, seeing there is no insurable interest.

City Life Assurance Co.—J. B. (Newport).—We think so. J. Y.—Unless you keep your premiums paid you are obviously at the mercy of the company.

Mutual Property Investment and Accident Co.—H. J. A. (Knightsbridge).—There is something in what your friend says.

Legal and General.—E. P. K. (Germond).—We do not think you could do much better.

National Old Age Pension Trust.—E. D. F.—We cannot recommend it.

Status of Co.—Corzo (Matlock).—We think there is no ground for anxiety as to the financial position of the company.

Royal London Mutual Insurance Society.—W. E. B. (West Cross).—The answer is in the affirmative.

New York Life Assurance Co.—Sincere (N. Wales).—(1) The company is financially strong. (2) Your statement as to what a 20-years endowment policy offers, and what could be done with it, are correct.

Insurable Interest.—A. B. (Dundee).—The transaction would have to be carried through with the knowledge and approval of the company. You should consult them upon it.

Colonial Mutual Life Assurance Society.—Bianco (Sunderland).—Send us the whole of the correspondence and particulars of the sums you have paid in.

Endowment Policy.—A. E. H. (Hull).—We know of no sufficient reason why you should not insure in No. 1, which, as you know, offers the best terms.

Sun Fire Assurance Company of Canada.—Lea (Liscard).—It is a very progressive Colonial society.

City Life Assurance Co.—H. Y. W. (London).—We know of no sufficient reason why you should not continue the payments.

Star Life Insurance Society.—R. H. (London).—Yes, quite. The form of the policy is all right. We notice it is cancelled. We return it under cover.

Liverpool and Victoria Insurance Corporation.—H. M. (Scunthorpe).—The objection of the company that your claim arose within 30 days of the insurance would seem to bar you from any claim. We return your policy and other papers.

London Provincial Insurance Co.—F. C. F. (Corbridge).—Yes, we think so.

Pearl Assurance Co.—W. H. (Burnley).—We think you had better take what the company offers you.

We have to acknowledge the 9th annual report of the Union Life Assurance Company (of Canada), and we congratulate the company upon its favourable tenor.

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It must have occurred to you time and time again that there was some way of making money of which the wealthy men of the world held the key. Yet it is as open as the sun at noon-day. It consists merely in following the laws pertaining to Finance and pursuing them to their logical conclusion. Being in closest possible touch with the powers that be in the world of Finance, and exercising the priceless experience of a lifelong study of the money-markets, we are placed in the singularly advantageous position of being able to accurately gauge and systematically apply those laws to the benefit of our clients. It is this precise knowledge that has enabled

—THE NATIONAL— SHARE EXCHANGE

to build up the Unique System whereby they have already paid away to Clients the colossal sum of

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J B. 6/5/11.

Name _____
(State whether Rev., Mr., Mrs., or Miss or Title.)

Address in Full _____

Date _____ _____
(Please write distinctly.)

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A GLIMPSE OF THE MILLENNIUM?

AMERICA'S "PEACE PROPOSALS."

Ef you want peace, the thing you've gut to do
Is jes' to show you're up ta fightin', tu.

The Biglow Papers.

There was a remarkable gathering at the Guildhall the other day. It was convened to welcome "the proposal of the President of the United States in favour of a general treaty of arbitration between that country and the British Empire." The Prime Minister moved the resolution, Mr. Balfour seconded it, the Archbishop of Canterbury blessed it, and the assembly acclaimed it. Now we hope we are as much the friends of peace, as alive to the horrors and follies of war, as it is possible to be, but what strikes us about the various speeches is that they were so very premature. There is a homely adage, not less true because homely, that warns us not to count our chickens before they are hatched, and in reading the glowing periods of the Prime Minister, and the hardly less dithyrambic language of Mr. Balfour, we could not help thinking of it. Both take it for granted that we are on the eve of a treaty of arbitration with the United States which will make war between them and ourselves impossible.

Now, in the first place, that is not true. President Taft's offer to submit *all* disputes to arbitration has been withdrawn. He will not arbitrate about the Monroe doctrine, or about the fortification and neutralisation of the Panama Canal. We should be much surprised if he would arbitrate about the immense sum we paid the United States over and above their legitimate claims in the Alabama arbitration, and which has been lying in their Treasury for the last forty years; or about the Newfoundland fisheries, or the gunboats which the United States Government persists in keeping upon the Lakes under the pretext of training seamen, but in defiance of the disarmament treaty of nearly a century ago. It is really inexcusable on the part of the Prime Minister to tell the enthusiasts at the Guildhall meeting, and through them the country, that "no matter what may be the gravity of the issue, whatever may be the magnitude of the interests involved," America is willing to go to arbitration upon them. America is willing to do nothing of the sort, and President Taft has made it plain that the American Senate will in the future, as in the past, have the power to say whether any question shall go to arbitration or not.

Fifteen years ago we were on the verge of war with the United States because President Cleveland had the insolence to interfere in the boundary dispute between ourselves and Venezuela. Afterwards, we were much nearer war than most people knew about the Alaska boundary question. True these things happened some years ago, but we are as little able to believe that the Yankee has changed his nature in the last decade as that the Ethiopian will change his skin, or the leopard his spots. What have we seen within the last week or two? A party of British marines was landed at a Mexican port and remained on Mexican soil for two or three hours, the lives of British subjects being supposed to be in danger. Immediately American politicians began to bluster, and American newspapers to shout about a violation of the Monroe doctrine. Yet, three or four years ago an American admiral did not hesitate to land American sailors at Jamaica without having been invited to do so by the British authorities, and, indeed, against the strenuous protest of the British governor.

The truth is that the Government of the United States is willing enough to arbitrate on certain secondary questions, because it believes it can always get the best of a deal, but unless it is faced by the threat of war it will not arbitrate on others. Does anyone suppose the American Government would have made the concessions it recently made to Japan over the immigration question but for the knowledge that Japan was prepared to back her demands by force, and that the Pacific States of America would be at her mercy? Curran used to say that the Irish were the worst people in the world to run away from, but he did not know the Yankees. Such gatherings as that at the Guildhall will not serve the cause of peace. The Americans used to hate us; let us beware lest they despise us. "Kowtowing" to America, as the ablest of English correspondents at Washington has just reminded us, will not help us.

WHAT IS YOUR NUMBER?
See Page ii of Cover.

CORONATION COMPARISONS.

SOME ASTONISHING FACTS AND FIGURES.

By Richard Morton.

Statistics are usually dry things if not tastefully dressed; the ordinary human being shies at figures in their plain and unrelieved state, but swallows them gleefully if nicely served up. That is why the Press always endeavours to combine amusement with instruction and to decorate arid facts with acceptable illustrations. We, as in duty bound, fall into line with the popular idea, and present the statistics we have gathered concerning the Coronation in the garb which apparently is always appreciated.

We told our man to get all the facts and figures possible, and to serve them hot for immediate consumption. His report is inspiriting, if not absolutely reliable. We print it, but do not guarantee it:—

Statistics Statistically Stated.

The two things in most demand for the Coronation rejoicings will be flags and food. A sample flag measured one yard each way, except in thickness, and I take this to be the average size, though some of the flags which are not so large may be somewhat smaller.

I estimate that 800,000 flags will be flying in London on the great day. If laid down end to end, if we consider them as flagstones instead of flags, they would reach from one given spot in London to another at some distance, and, if stretched, possibly further than that. Their total weight, if massed together, would be enormous, over 30,000 tons, more or less, so it is satisfactory to know they will be flown singly.

Paper garlands will be a striking feature, each garland being twelve feet long. This is equal to four yards, and 500 miles of these streamers would stretch from Long Acre to the House of Commons several times over.

The illuminations will include three million electric lights, sufficient if massed together to flash signals and messages to Mars. The flash would speed on a journey of 31,741,800 miles, two furlongs, one rod, pole, or perch, and would cover the distance thirty-eight times in a single second, if you pushed the button quick enough.

Bucket lamps are in great request, one firm alone supplying ten thousand for a London square. It is quite safe to handle a bucket lamp, but visitors will be cautioned against kicking the bucket.

Medals are being minted and stamped out at the rate of three and a quarter per four-fifths of a second. This is rather more than fifty per hour. Gold medals are eagerly sought for, but the supply is scanty. Silver is also in demand and scarce, bronze is taken and wanted, white metal is given to children, but putty medals are not meddled with.

The total weight of Coronation medals is over three million ounces, equivalent to several tons, and a man who desired to wear the whole of them at once would require a chest equal in size to a portion of Hyde Park. The total weight would be sufficient to make him cough.

It is estimated that in London alone twelve million children will require twenty-four million Coronation mugs. This is allowing two mugs to each child, for they are sure to break the first one. Some of the designs I have seen are enough to make anybody break the Sabbath.

The amount of china employed in the manufacture of these mugs is enormous. Each mug weighs about three ounces, so I reckon the total quantity will be quite a large number of hundredweights. Anybody doubting these astonishing figures, is at liberty to weigh the things himself.

On Coronation Day in London there will be consumed several oxen, many sheep, some chickens, and a lot of old hens. The buns will number ten million, and these will include nearly a million currants and quite one pound of candied peel.

384,000 dozens of lemonade and ginger beer will be disposed of. These, if let off all together in a fountain in Trafalgar Square, would mount to a height of 37,000 feet, or four times as high as the Nelson Monument, and would, at the same time, save many a stomach-ache.

I estimate that the accounts of the Coronation in the daily papers will consist of fifteen million pages of six columns each, and, reckoning 500 lines to each column and eight words to each line, this means over forty billion words—mostly rot.

New Sunbeams in exchange for Old Cycles

There are so many Cyclists who want to ride the 1911 All-Black Sunbeam—the Bicycle that is miles an hour faster—that never wears out—that costs nothing for Upkeep—that is cleaned in a few minutes with a damp sponge. But there is an old Machine to be disposed of first. To such Cyclists the following offer will appeal. But it must be taken advantage of at once, as our

OFFER CLOSES ON MAY 20th.

In the early part of a Cycle Season, we and our Agents make Liberal Allowances for good Cycles of any make when taken **in part payment for new Sunbeams.** We should be glad, with your permission, to instruct our Representative for your District to call upon you, and to quote the utmost price that can be allowed for the Bicycle you are now riding.

If you will fill in the following form and return it to us, the matter shall have immediate attention.

JOHN MARSTON, Limited.

The largest Makers of First-class Cycles in the World. A Private Company.

1. Your Name .....
2. Your Address .....
3. What make is the old machine? .....
4. About what date was it purchased? .....
5. What price did you pay for it when new? .....
6. What is the size of Frame (distance from top of seat lug to centre of crank bracket)? .....
7. Is it a Lady's or Gent.'s Machine? .....
8. What, in your opinion, is its present value? .....
9. What make of Tyres? Are they in good condition? .....

It is understood that the filling in and sending of this form places you under no obligation whatever to purchase. This form to be torn out and posted to

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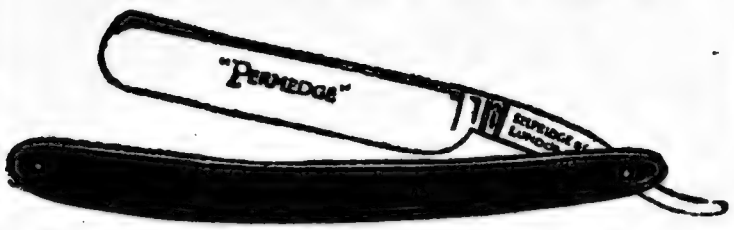
Shave Smoother and Cleaner than ever before —use "Permedge."



For the man who has a tough beard and a tender skin—and the one is invariably the companion of the other—there is no better razor than the "Permedge." "Permedge" means smoother shaves, fewer settings and no razor-worry. It is made—and well made—of examined Sheffield silver steel, hollow ground with an edge that keeps long keen. The price for this most excellent razor is—and includes Carriage Paid in British Isles—only **3/-**

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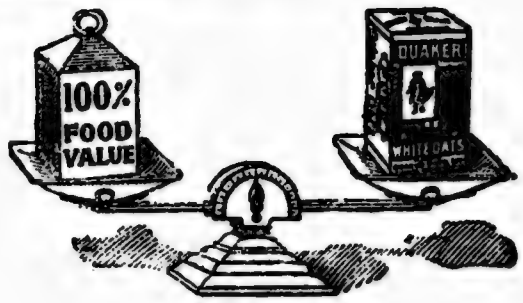

Always Standard of food value the world over,

Quaker Oats

is the best-balanced food.

Quaker Oats is the richest of all growing food in proteid—the muscle-maker; organic phosphorus—the brain-builder; lecithin—the nerve nourisher; carbohydrates — the energy givers. Scientific analysis is proof

And because of the exclusive Quaker milling process, Quaker Oats is free from the hulls, black specks and dust found in ordinary oats.

Furthermore, this exclusive Quaker milling produces the large, thin Quaker Flakes, which—by permitting the starch to cook thoroughly—prevent Quaker Oats from overheating the blood.

Quaker Oats is sold only in sealed packets, which protect you from inferior food, and the food from dust and loss of flavour

IMAGINARY INTERVIEW.

LORD HALDANE.

By Walter Moore.

Peeping round the door of the Robing Room of the House of Lords the other day, I was deeply interested and somewhat moved (convulsively, to speak truth) to see Lord Haldane struggling manfully with his new and unaccustomed garment.

"Felicitations on your elevation to the Beerage, my lord!" I cried, poking my head a little further round the door jamb.

"Eh? What?" stuttered the new peer.

"Felicitations—elevation—Beerage," I repeated, edging my way in a little further.

Lord Haldane flung the ermine from him with a gesture of annoyance, and then looked at me narrowly.

"German?" he asked.

"No, m'lud," I replied.

"Then why say Beerage?" demanded his lordship of Cloan, sharply.

"Sorry," I returned. "Slip of the bung—I mean tongue."

Lord Haldane continued to regard me doubtfully.

"How art thou fallen, Lucifer, Son of the Morning!" I chanted, introducing myself completely into the room. "Or perhaps it would be more correct to say Son of Mars," I murmured, cogitatively. "Which reminds me of those sublime lines of Rabbie Burrrns, to wit:

> I am a son of Mars, who has been in many wars,
> And show my cuts and scars wherever I come:
> This here was for a wench, and that other in a trench,
> When welcoming the French at the sound of the drum.

Wonderful poet, Burrrns, m'lud," I observed. "In his works can be found quotations to fit every circumstance in life and every day of the week."

"Yes, yes; I know," replied Lord Haldane testily. "But I wish you would not monopolise the conversation. To one like myself, who has been accustomed to talk for hours at a stretch in the House of Commons at the slightest provocation, it is not an easy matter to play the part of listener with patience. I have had so few opportunities, comparatively speaking, to exercise my oratorical powers since my unfortunate (*hem!*) elevation to the House of Lords, that I welcomed your appearance—although the manner of your entry was somewhat strange and your appearance not a little suspicions—thinking you might be good enough to play the part of auditor for an hour or two, there being so much that I am bursting to say. Instead of which, you scarcely give me a chance to open my mouth."

"Oh, m'lud!" I protested, "I don't suppose I have spoken more than a doz——"

"There you go again," sighed the noble Minister for War, with a despairing gesture. "You will not let me get a word in edgeways."

"But, m'lud," I objected warmly, "for every word I have uttered you have spoken a sc——."

"Dear me, dear me!" cried Lord Haldane; "am I *never* to have an opportunity? I have always been under the impression that a conversation between two parties should be shared as equally as possible. And yet, here you are checking me at every turn. Surely you would like to know the reasons which prompted me to accept a peerage, what my chances are of obtaining the Woolsack, why I ordered a new crimson sash for army officers, and then withdrew the order? But no; you are so egotistical, whoever you are, that you will not allow anybody but yourself to speak."

"I think we know pretty well what your motives were in each case you have cited," I observed; "and what your chances are of the Chancellorship."

"Who, then, are you?" demanded Lord Haldane.

"I represent John Bull," I replied, quietly.

Lord Haldane motioned me to the door without a word and resumed his desperate struggles with his new peer's robe.

IDEAL HOLIDAYS.

NORFOLK BROADS, Burnham, Southampton, Dutch Canals. Ideal, inexpensive holidays. 300 Yachts, wherries for hire. Illustrated List, 184 pages. Gratis, by post 2d. H. Blake's Cruising Co., 10 Basinghall Street, London, E.C.

Have you seen THE MISSING LINK ?

£100 IN PRIZES

GUARANTEED THIS WEEK.

You have tried limericks and possibly have never invented a winning line. Has the fault been yours? Probably not. The task may have been too difficult or the judging not wise, but whether you have or not, you should try the latest thing in competitions, "The Missing Link"—the most entertaining and simple prize scheme ever evolved.

Every Reader of "John Bull" can enter.

What is the Missing Link? Here is the idea in a nutshell. In each week's issue of "Mrs. Bull" is given a verse from which one line is missing. All you have to do is to complete the verse. Find what you consider to be the cleverest and aptest line, send it in and win a prize. The following is this week's verse:—

Dear Flo and her beau were admiring the stars,
From Virgo to Taurus from Venus to Mars,
Said Flo to her beau "As a star I would shine,
.....

For your guidance [one is an example of a final line—]

Were I lucky enough to get that "Last Line."

Readers of John Bull can make use of the free coupon below, which fill in and send *with a postal order for 6d.* to "Mrs. Bull," 93, Long Acre, London, W.C., by Tuesday, May 9th. Mark your envelope "Link." Ten big cash prizes will be awarded to the owners of the ten best lines, and various cash prizes to those next in order of merit.

Read the Conditions below.

1. Send a line to complete the above verse.
2. All lines must be written on the coupon below, additional coupons to be taken from John Bull or "Mrs. Bull," but all should be sent in one envelope.
3. For every two lines you send you must remit a Postal Order for Sixpence and each Postal Order should be made payable to the Editor, "Mrs. Bull," and should be crossed "and Co."
4. All the money received (less 10 per cent. for working expenses) will be divided amongst the successful competitors.
5. To the senders of the ten best lines, Large Cash Prizes will be awarded, and other Cash Prizes to numbers of others sending the next best lines. *Not less than £100 will be awarded this week, but it may be considerably more.*
6. In everything connected with the Competition the Editor's decision will be absolutely final, and readers may enter only on that clear understanding. No correspondence whatever can be entered into in connection with this competition.

Remember you can send two lines for each Sixpence that you remit. You are not bound to send two. One alone may win.

All lines must reach "Mrs. Bull," 93, Long Acre, London, W.C., by Tuesday, May 9th.

Mark your envelopes "Link."

FREE COUPON.

COUPON No. 6, closing Tuesday, May 9.

MISSING LINK COMPETITION.

Line suggested .....

Second Line suggested .....

Name .....

Address .....

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No. of Postal Order .....

Fill it up NOW, and Make Money!

"JOHN BULL" ON MEDICAL TESTIMONY.

As medical etiquette forbids the publication of professional names in advertisements, the following and hundreds of other doctors' and nurses' testimonials to the marvellous restorative properties of Hall's Wine have been inspected by "John Bull," and are guaranteed genuine and unsolicited.

No. 774.
"I find Hall's Wine very good indeed. I was very 'run down and it quite set me up again. I shall be more than pleased to recommend it to my patients—in fact, I have already done so."

No. 1023.
"I have taken Hall's Wine for Sleeplessness and derived the greatest benefit from it. I shall certainly recommend it to my patients."

No. 1094.
"After a bad attack of Influenza and Nerves, Hall's Wine has built me up entirely, and I shall most certainly recommend it to my patients."

No. 1096.
"I consider Hall's Wine a very good tonic and always recommend it to Convalescents."

No. 1099.
"I find Hall's Wine a very good pick-me-up and always recommend it to delicate patients. It is very nutritious and pleasant to take."

No. 990.
"I had been on night duty for some time and was feeling extremely ill when I resorted to Hall's Wine. I am pleased to say that the feeling almost entirely left me, and I am now well able to do my work."

No. 993.
"I always feel run down after night duty, and I find Hall's Wine is a splendid tonic and pick-me-up for the nerves, as well as strength-giving. I shall have the greatest pleasure in recommending it."

Hall's Wine

There is no Spring for those in bad health. Lack of energy, a stubborn cold, nervous days and restless nights—neuralgia, depression, anæmia :—

All these show that you need Hall's Wine to put you into the glow of vigorous health. Nerves and blood—Hall's Wine acts upon both. One bottle will prove this. The first wineglassful gives a plain indication.

Get the new, extra size 3/6 bottle from your wine merchant, licensed grocer or chemist 23

The "MASTA" for Pipe Lovers.

The "Masta" possesses a scientific but simple device which absolutely prevents any nicotine or moisture from reaching the mouth or pipe bowl. It ensures a cool and dry smoke to the end, and allows you to enjoy the full flavour of the tobacco.

There are no parts to get out of order, and the pipe can be easily cleaned. The "Masta" can be thoroughly enjoyed by those who cannot smoke an ordinary pipe

Made of best selected briar.

Every pipe guaranteed.

Obtainable of all leading tobacconists. Price 2/6, 4/-, 5/6, 8/-, &c. Cheaper quality, 1/-. Write to-day for free booklet, "Points on Pipes." Full of useful hints.

MASTA PIPE CO. (Dept. 9) 153 FLEET ST., LONDON, E.C.

JUNON Aromatic BATH MUSTARD

Adds *zest* to the bath. Adds a piquancy, a deliciousness, that is delightfully refreshing and invigorating Imparts a delicate perfume to the skin. Softens the hardest water. Has a tonic effect on the nerves and circulation. Prevents chill after violent exercise or exposure to inclement weather.

For Wet or Aching Feet Soak the feet for **20** minutes in a footbath containing water as hot as can be borne, with a proportion of JUNON Aromatic Bath Mustard added. Add hot water from time to time to maintain the temperature.

1/6 2/6 & 3/6 a box

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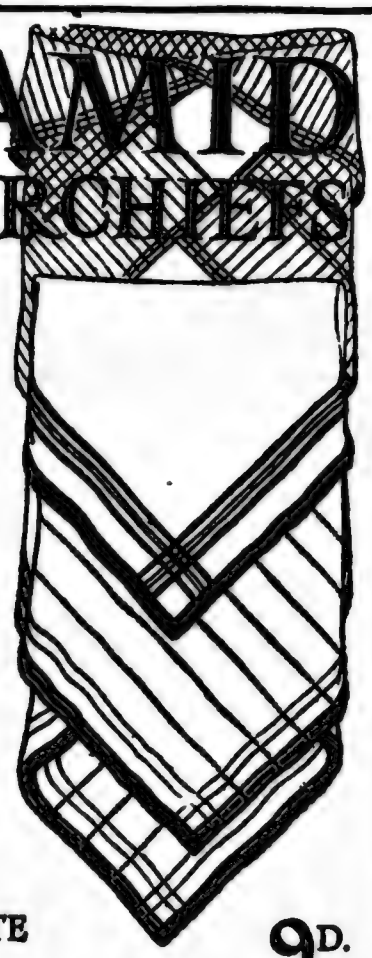
PYRAMID HANDKERCHIEFS

for Men of Taste



Fine and soft in texture, pleasant to use, and unusually durable.

Tasteful border colourings and designs, guaranteed indelible.

The "Pyramid" Guarantee:

"We agree to give you, free of all cost, half-a-dozen Pyramid handkerchiefs for every one you send to us that has lost its colour in the laundry."

Also in ALL-WHITE patterns.

If your outfitter cannot show you "Pyramids" write Pyramid, Dept. 4 132 Cheapside, London E.C.

9D. EACH Half-Dozen 4/3

Sample "Pyramid" 9d. post free.

"JOHN BULL'S" MONTHLY CALENDAR.

MAY.

1. M.—Royal Academy opens. Visitors quickly decide that several of the artists should have been hung instead of their pictures.
2. TU.—*Mrs. Bull* published. Thousands Sekhet—and fail to find it. Sold out. They should order it. Jerome K. Jerome—and many other idlers—born, 1859.
3. W.—*Lotinga's Weekly* published. Jamaica discovered by Columbus, 1494. Jamaica captured by the British, 1655. Jamaica bananas consumed in enormous quantities to celebrate both events.
4. TH.—JOHN BULL published. Prudential Insurance Co. Directors in imminent danger of apoplexy.
5. F.—Napoleon the Great died, 1821. First Coronation Sweet Pea makes its appearance in the garden of Northoleon the Greater. Wild rejoicings amongst the Carmelite monks.
6. S.—Accession of KING GEORGE V.—God Save the King!
7. S.—Lord Rosebery born, 1847. Roseberyites hold a great Single Furrow Ploughing Competition. [What about the Fourth Commandment?]
8. M.—Parliamentary Kangaroo jumps more vigorously than ever.
9. TU.—*Mrs. Bull* published. Mrs. Grundy grunts. J. M. Barrie born, 1860. My Lady Nicotine and Peter Pan hold a midnight reception in Kensington Gardens.
10. W.—*Lotinga's Weekly* published. Rt. Hon. James Bryce, O.M., born, 1838. Day of Mourning in Ireland.
11. TH.—JOHN BULL published. Public executions abolished, 1886. Never mind: Cutcliffe Hyne, father of Captain Kettle, born, 1866.
12. F.—Another Coronation Sweet Pea breaks through the soil in Northoleon's garden. Scandalous orgies at Carmelite House.
13. S.—Full Moon, 6.10 a.m. Very few people observe the phenomenon.
14. S.—Old May Day. Tennyson's Queen of the May moves uneasily in her grave. Hall Caine born, 1853. Manx cats wag their tails for joy.
15. M.—Scots' Quarter Day. Gloom in the Land o' Cakes. Scottish M.P.'s rejoice that Parliament is sitting.
16. TU.—*Mrs. Bull* published. Mrs. Grundy snorts. Fishmongers' Company founded, 1284. Eloquent, but brief, speeches heard in Billingsgate—but not reported.
17. W.—*Lotinga's Weekly* published. King of Spain born, 1886. Brisk demand at Harris' Sausage Shops for Spanish onions.
18. TH.—JOHN BULL published. Consternation in certain quarters.
19. F.—Third Coronation Sweet Pea makes its appearance. Carmelite House inundated with telegrams of congratulation.
20. S.—Consols at £113 11s. 3d. in 1897. Consols in 1911 at—[Don't mention it.—ED.]
21. S.—ROGATION SUNDAY.—M.P.'s sigh for Prorogation Day.
22. M.—Conan Doyle born, 1859. Resurrects Sherlock Holmes for the 114th time, or thereabouts. [The oftener the better.—ED.]
23. TU.—*Mrs. Bull* published. Mrs. Grundy sniffs.
24. W.—*Lotinga's Weekly* published. EMPIRE DAY. Day of Lamentation for Little Englanders.
25. TH.—JOHN BULL published. ASCENSION DAY.
26. F.—QUEEN MARY born, 1867. Loving and loyal greetings from all the Marys—*and everybody else*—throughout the kingdom.
27. S.—Arnold Bennett born. Indignant inhabitants of Burslem wish him—to go to pot.
28. S.—Fourth belated Coronation Sweet Pea peeps through the soil, and expires. Agitation at Carmelite House.
29. M.—Monarchy restored, 1660. [And a very good job too.—ED.]
30. TU.—*Mrs. Bull* published. Mrs. Grundy—[No suitable types.—COMP.]
31. W.—*Lotinga's Weekly* published. Peace of Pretoria 1902. Day of Boerdom for many irreconcilables.

HOVIS BREAD

Has for 25 years represented the highest standard of bread economy. HOVIS BREAD has more food in it than any other.

A Hovis loaf contains 100% of the semolina and as much germ as all the flour required to make 27 white loaves of the same weight.

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THE HIGHEST STANDARD OF NOURISHMENT

Hovis Bread yields more than twice as much usable nourishing matter as ordinary bread or the recent so called standard or 80% bread—not merely because it contains this additional nutriment, but also because ALL THE NUTRIMENT WHICH HOVIS CONTAINS IS DIGESTIBLE AND USABLE BY THE HUMAN BODY.

Of all the elements in wheat, the germ—1½% of the whole—is by far the most nourishing. Much is made of the fact that this 1½% of germ is retained in certain breads.

IN HOVIS 25% of the ENTIRE LOAF IS GERM

DR. ROBERT HUTCHISON the greatest living authority on Food questions, deliberately states that "with the free addition of butter or some other fat HOVIS BREAD IS NOT FAR FROM BEING A COMPLETE FOOD."

(See Hutchison's "Food and Principles of Dietetics.")

HOVIS BREAD contains three times as much bone-making material and twice as much muscle-forming and energy-making material as the best ordinary or standard bread.

HOVIS BREAD

ALL-BRITISH

. . . A British Invention Made by British Workmen for British Men . . .

CLEMAK Safety Razor 5/-

Why Pay a GUINEA ?

The Clemak Safety Razor—at 5s.—is Made as Well and Shaves as Well as any Guinea Safety Razor.

. . . Note how carefully it is made—the perfection of every detail—its beautiful finish. Look at the blade—feel its keen cutting edge. No other blade could shave your beard more easily than that.

. . Now put the **Clemak** side by side with any Safety Razor offered at a Guinea. You will then see for yourself that it is in every way the equal of the other Razor—and costs you 16/- less to buy. Then why pay a guinea ?

. . . The **Clemak** complete 5/- Outfit consists of Triple Silver Plated Frame ; Self-contained Stropping Handle ; and Seven Sheffield Steel Blades—the whole contained in neat case, size 2in. by 3¾ in.

. . . The **Clemak** (Pat.) **Stropping Machine**, including a good leather strop, costs 3/6. No skill required—you simply pull the blade-holder to and fro. It insures correct stropping and lengthens the life of every blade. Saves its cost many times over.

OF ALL STORES, CUTLERS, &c. Or post free from the CLEMAK RAZOR CO., Billiter Street, London.

CLEMAK Safety Razor 5/-

THE DRAMA OF TO-DAY.

By M. Clement Scott.

"The Master of Mrs. Chilvers."

Messrs. Vedrenne and Eadie, the new managers of the Royalty Theatre, Dean Street, Soho, have gathered together an amazingly clever company to assist them in presenting "The Master of Mrs. Chilvers," by Jerome K. Jerome. Alas! I regret to say though, Mr. Jerome has not supplied anything very novel for these extremely talented people to either say or do in his suffragist comedy, which begins with a laugh, but tails off to nothing.

Most of us remember that exquisite scene in "Caste," where Esther confides to George D'Alroy the fact that she is about to become a mother; but, unfortunately, in the Royalty play this same subject lacks both the beauty and charm with which Tom Robertson wrote his exquisitely human confession.

Then, again, the subject has been discussed *ad nauseam* concerning the question of women having the vote, and we all know that the law decrees that twelve ladies who are Peeresses in their own right can claim the privilege of joining in debates and are at liberty to take their places in the House of Lords if they so desire. There are even cases, so I believe, on record when such claims have been asserted and "special remainders" have been allowed to female relatives in the absence of males.

If Mr. Jerome's play had been written a dozen years ago, it might have burst on us with surprise, but the story is now so threadbare that all the gloss and shine have been taken out of it. We have listened to much more entertaining meetings at Caxton Hall, Hyde Park, the Albert Hall, &c., with the Women's Franchise Leagues and Unions, than the trivial affair Mr. Jerome treats us to in Russell Square, where the playwright mixes up "cause" and "sentiment" in the most unbusinesslike way. Jerome K. Jerome seeks to convince us all that married women should stay at home, increase the already overcrowded population, and take no part in the "great movement" to make woman man's equal. But all his argument cannot make us forget that the strongest leaders of this would-be evolution have been Mrs. Pankhurst, who has been backed up by her children, and Mrs. Pethick Lawrence, whose husband has fought side by side with her.

It may be very sweet for Miss Lena Ashwell to contest the seat her husband is standing for, to gain it and then to hand it back to him because *nolens volens* she cannot help herself, inasmuch as Nature has stepped into the breach saying, "I won't have this; I'll put a stop to it by making you a mother;" but isn't Mr. Jerome a little too late?

The only woman really qualified to vote in Mr. Jerome's "Master of Mrs. Chilvers," seems to me to be the widow—Mrs. Chinn, a sort of housekeeper, and caretaker of the Liberal Committee Room in the East India Dock Road, who, without help or grumbling, has, single-handed, brought up six children, and is so independent that she refuses to accept money from anybody, declaring that "she'd rather not; that's all." Mrs. Chinn is a gentle, soft-voiced soul, who goes through the grey monotony of existence without a murmur, an example to everybody, although she never poses for one, and, as played by Sydney Fairbrother, is perfect as a study of ideal motherhood. Another excellent character touch is supplied by Esmé Beringer as a coster-girl, but, for the rest, you find but little to interest you. Mr. and Mrs. Chilvers are mere shadows, every now and again you think something is going to happen, but another distraction turns up and leaves the other unfinished. The actors and actresses are there, the play it is that is thin, spiritless and watery.

The Sicilians.

It is a revelation to the "natural school of acting" to watch the fiery untamed demonstrations of the Sicilian troupe at the London Hippodrome. Headed by Grasso and Bragaglia, these artistes from the land of sun and sulphur make your hair curl with their realistic throat-cutting, their quarrellings, their passionate love makings, and their jealousies. I have lived in Palermo, and seen from my window a man following another stealthily until, within a pace of him, he has raised a shining blade, and plunged it into the back of his victim. Go and see the Sicilians; you will get a thrill such as I felt then.

The New 5-Fold Friend of Your Hair & Scalp.

"Warnol"

"DAILY DRESSING" for SCALP & HAIR

Your Chemist or Hairdresser will be Pleased to Make the 'Introduction.'

A FRIENDSHIP of the most valuable kind awaits every reader of this paper.

The best friend of your hair awaits only an introduction to begin what will prove a lasting friendship.

The best friend of every reader's hair and scalp will be found in the new "Daily Dressing" called "Warnol" (after the name of the discoverer, Mr. Warner Oliver, the well-known West-End Hair Specialist). For the small cost of 1s. a bottle of "Warnol" will "Daily Dress" your hair into health and beauty for 50 days. With the 2s. 6d. bottle the "Daily Dressing" will continue for 150 days.

There is enough friendship for your hair and scalp in either the 1s. or 2s. 6d. size bottle of "Warnol" to make every reader glad of the introduction that one's Chemist, Stores or Hairdresser will be delighted to effect without delay to-day.

It is just the aid of "Warnol's" friendly daily cherishing of your scalp and hair that will prevent the more or less slow but sure decay and death of your hair.

5 in 1 "Daily Dressing." for Your Hair and Scalp.

So ethereally fine is "Warnol" that it will fade into the atmosphere if left exposed to the jealous air. It is this very delicacy that makes the hair and scalp absorb "Warnol" so quickly. The absorption is so complete as to leave not even a suggestion of dampness, much less any actual stickiness or greasiness. The only evidence of "Warnol's" friendship for the hair and scalp is a resulting smoothness and softness and a sweet tractability to the ministrations of the brush and comb.

Yet is "Warnol" no mere friend of the appearance of the hair. It is every user's 5-in-1 ally against Dandruff, Dryness, Moistness, Weakness and Irritability of the Scalp.

A BOTTLE-IN-WAITING FOR YOU.

All these five factors of Scalp and Hair Health and Beauty lie in waiting in every 1s. and 2s. 6d. bottle of "Warnol."

Will you keep waiting so useful a friend to your hair as "Warnol"? Test "Warnol's" friendship for your hair and scalp for 50 days for 1s. or 150 days for 2s. 6d.

Your Chemist, your Stores, or your Hairdresser will be pleased to "introduce" either a 1s. or 2s. 6d. bottle of "Warnol" on trial.

To-day is here—and there's no time like the present for making the acquaintance of so good a friend to your hair as "Warnol."

The John Bull League.

BRANCH REPORTS.

MANCHESTER.—It would be difficult to exaggerate the success of the smoking concert on April 28th, in the Marble Hall of the Albion Hotel. Councillor Ross Clyne was in the chair, Mr. John Robinson in the vice-chair, and the attendance (which included many well-known citizens) was the largest at any function of the kind ever held in the finest hotel hall in the city. The entertainment itself was of the highest class, every performer being of acknowledged repute. Mr. Sellers Partington opened the concert with a finely-executed overture, and then Mr. Jack Hilton, R.C.O.V.(H.), gave a beautiful rendering of a charming ballad. Mr. Joseph Crowe followed with a clarionet solo, which delighted the company. Mr. Tom Vaughan gave a "Railway Monologue," which was much enjoyed, and then Mr. Measor Granville recited in his masterly manner "Napoleon's Tomb." Mr. Charles E. Ellis was cleverly reminiscent of the great Fragson, Mr. Will Kerr gave a humorous song in a happy style, and Mr. W. P. Wentley (the winner at many contests) simply brought down the house with his quaint impersonations of Scottish characters. A fine example of male-soprano singing was given by Mr. J. Horsfield. Miss Marion Kenyon kept the audience spell-bound for over twenty minutes with her genuinely artistic sketch, "A Woman's Fall." Miss Edith Threlfall and Miss Mary Bunting each favoured the company with songs. This concert wound up Manchester's first season—which has been mainly of a business-like character, the practical usefulness of its work being recognised even in the most influential quarters

LEEDS.—An enjoyable function took place on Thursday, April 27th, when a meeting of members only was held at the Grand Central Hotel, Leeds, for the purpose of hearing a farewell address from Mr. W. B. Russell, the local chairman, who is leaving very shortly for Australia. During the evening musical items were given by Mr. Jack Allerton, Mr. R. H. Powell, Mr. R. L. Powell, Mr. H. Tuke, Mr. Alf. Holmes, and Mr. R. P. Fox. Mr. Russell, in the course of his address, thanked those who had helped to make the Leeds branch the success it was to-day, and referred especially to the help and assistance that the committee had rendered him upon all occasions, and in wishing them good-bye he hoped to hear from time to time of the good work being done by the Leeds branch. Mr. C. L. Kay, the central secretary of the Birmingham branch, was also present, and in the course of a witty speech, drew many humorous comparisons with regard to the Party system of government. His remarks were well received. Mr. G. H. Ashby, in a capital speech, thanked Mr. Russell for his whole-hearted efforts on behalf of the branch. He was seconded by Mr. T. Ellwood. At the close of the evening musical honours were accorded the chairman. Many letters were received from members who were not able to be present wishing success to Mr. Russell, and he leaves with the good wishes of every member.

GLASGOW.—A large and representative meeting of this branch was held in the Concert Hall of the Union Restaurant, West Nile Street, Glasgow, on Tuesday, April 25th. The meeting was addressed by Mr. C. Kay, central secretary, Birmingham, who gave an outline of the various methods adopted by branches in other parts of the kingdom, and after an animated discussion, which included an address from a city councillor, who expressed his sympathy with the objects of the League, it was decided to form a Central Executive Committee, of which Mr. F. F. Webster was appointed chairman, Mr. J. B. Thomson treasurer, and Mr. McCoome central secretary. It was then decided to form a branch in each of the Parliamentary divisions of the city, each with a Local Secretary, Chairman, and Divisional Committee. The members resident in these divisions elected a chairman and local secretary for their respective districts. The members who were present who resided outside these divisions formed another group, and elected eight gentlemen to represent them. The Executive consists of twenty-two members, and embraces representatives from the whole city and district. Several offers of help were received from members willing to assist in getting a programme together for a social evening to be held at an early date. The newly-elected Chairman, in a rousing speech, said that the branch was greatly indebted to Mr. C. L. Kay for his kindness in coming so far to assist them in their organisation, and proposed a vote of thanks to him for his help, which was carried heartily.

BIRMINGHAM.—In reference to the petition which was recently organised by this branch for the extension of working men's fares on the trams, it was stated in this column that the chief of police in the King's Heath division had refused permission to allow the stands to be erected in his district. This was afterwards found to be incorrect; the fact being that leave was given, but it did not come to hand till noon of the day in question, and it was then too late to make arrangements for the stands and the necessary assistants. We are sorry that undeserved reflection was cast upon the superintendent.

BRISTOL.—An open-air meeting will take place on Sunday, May 7th, at 6.30 p.m., on Durdham Downs (near Blackboy Hill). Mr. B. G. Brown will be the principal speaker.

HOW TO GET FAT

Home Treatment which Works Wonders in Making Scraggy, Undeveloped Men and Women Plump and Attractive.

2/6 BOX FREE.

Thin persons, particularly those from ten to thirty pounds under weight, will be interested to learn of a marvellous discovery which puts on flesh at the rate of a pound a day in many instances, rounds out the figure, and makes thin folks fatten up even if they have been scraggy for years.

Don't shut your eyes and say "Impossible!" Put this new treatment to the test. The test is free (see coupon below), and surely the test will tell. It is not necessary that you should remain skinny and under weight for the rest of your life, even if you have vainly tried every "fattener" you ever heard of.

This new discovery calls for no drastic dieting, no detention from business. You go about as usual, eat what you like. It is harmless to the most delicate

"I was just as thin as you are before I tried Sargol."

system, and contains no oils, emulsions, nor alcohol. Just a concentrated tablet which can be taken privately. Your nearest friends need not know what you are doing until you astonish them with a visible and pleasing increase in weight.

Excessive thinness is very mortifying. Thin men never look like "real money." They are pushed aside in the race for success. Bony women are seldom very popular. Dress will not hide skin and bones. All men admire fine figures. Take Sargol and get out of the feather-weight class.

Post the Coupon to-day. Send your name and full address to the Sargol Co. (Dept. 191), 124, Holborn, London, E.C. They will send at once the 2s. 6d. package of Sargol, and will write and show you why you have remained thin, and how Sargol puts on firm flesh in a natural way. There is no longer any necessity for you to remain skinny and ill-developed.

FREE COUPON.

This certificate entitles the holder to one 2s. 6d. package of Sargol, the home treatment which makes thin folks plump and attractive.

Please enclose 3d. stamps to help pay distribution expenses.

The Sargol Co. (Dept. 191), 124, Holborn, London, E.C.

Constipation Vanishes For Ever

Prompt Relief—Permanent Cure. CARTER'S LITTLE LIVER PILLS never fail. Purely vegetable—act surely but gently on the liver. Stop after-dinner distress—cure indigestion—improve the complexion—brighten the eyes.

Small Pill, Small Dose, Small Price.

GENUINE must bear Signature.

Brent Good

THE

LIVERPOOL VICTORIA

INSURANCE CORPORATION, LTD.

SUBSCRIBED CAPITAL £421,403

Life. Fire. Accident.

Motor. Burglary. Plate Glass, etc.

'THE BUSINESS WOMAN'S' INVESTMENT POLICY.

No Medical Examination required. Prospectus sent on request.

AGENCY APPLICATIONS INVITED.

HEAD OFFICE:

45-49 HOLBORN VIADUCT, LONDON, E.C.

BULL'S EYES.

Notes of Interrogation:—
Will Lord Haldane get the wool-"sack"?
Isn't the "kangaroo" closure giving some members the "jumps"?
Isn't Home Rule *always* "placed *before* the country"?
Won't the Small Holdings Act pay—some people?
Is "Two gates are better than one" the football version?
Is imported foreign milk at all fresh?
Oughtn't "Exchange no robbery" to be the telephone motto?
Is Will Crooks' "Plimsoll line for stomachs" to prevent overloading?
Doesn't "add-mire" express Dr. Owen's attitude to Shakespeare?
Shouldn't a History of Morocco be "guilt-edged"?
Isn't the Prudential excellently named?

Quercus was one of the winners at Newmarket. Some of the "bookies" have their own way of pronouncing its name.

"Fresh air and sunlight are the best cosmetics," says Sir John Cockburn. Naturally.

"Smuggling Home Rule," we read. We doubt if the Government will get it through.

"We must have eight," was the cry about *Dreadnoughts* a little time ago. Now to the peace proposals Germany says "*Nein!*"

A nurse who had been injured by the kick of a child was recently awarded 10s. a week compensation. An expensive hit to leg.

It was stated at Newcastle-under-Lyme that ten persons slept in the same bed—five at each end. Where was the umpire?

"The English undergraduate is very ignorant of the Colonies," says a contemporary. He is more interested in the father-land.

"Canada is in the truest sense a joint-stock company," says the *Ottawa Citizen*. What about the Lie-abilities?

A young wife complained at the South-Western Court that her husband locked up the joints and half-starved her. But he gave her the cold shoulder.

The male suffragist refuses to take his food in prison except by tube. The alternative would be underground, we presume.

The statue of Peter Pan to be erected in Kensington Gardens will hardly be correct. It will have to grow up.

"Actor-managers declare that what the public want to see is a man making money," says the *Gentlewoman*. But coiners are rarely caught in the act.

In a month a caterpillar devours six thousand times its own weight. No wonder it makes the butter fly.

A cricket club has been formed among the staff of the Tariff Reform League. Of course, the wickets will be protected.

"Bottle worth £560," we read. A valuable thing to pop.

The cost of a dispute over a dust-bin recently led to insolvency. But this is clean compared to some failures.

"The greenhouse is a trap to catch sunbeams," says Sir J. J. Thomson. The conservatory as a trap for husbands is well known.

232 farthings were found on a prisoner at Tottenham. What a number of libel actions he must have won!

"£20,000,000 Baby," says a heading. Dear little mite!

A goose at Hedingham has laid an egg a foot and a quarter in circumference, lengthways. Seldom that a fresh egg is so high.

A prisoner pleaded at Willesden that he had a peculiar *affection* of the throat, which caused him to drink too much. Dry wit.

A rich American lady recently used a piece of old wrapping-paper for her will. Were any relatives done brown?

A thrush possessing neither legs nor thighs was recently killed at Aylsham. *He* was not caught on the hop.

"Life in the loaf," says a *Mail* heading. No need for cheese.

We hear of a dramatised Book of Job. Will the people have patience to bear it?

Blind worms are no more blind than moles or blind beggars.

TRADE NOTE.

Shakespeare or Bacon?

The recent revival of this ever-vexing question has led to a peculiar experiment on the part of the firm who produce the well-known wine tonic—Hall's Wine. In an advertisement which appeared in this journal they asked readers to specify on a sub-joined coupon whether they thought Shakespeare wrote "Shakespeare"—or that Bacon did. The replies were numerous, showing a continued interest in the subject, and the average of opinions was 65 out of 100 in favour of Shakespeare. Various authorities who have been consulted in the matter declare that this indicates a much greater percentage of Baconians than has heretofore been the rule.

Why Buy Foreign Shaving Soap?

Why should you take the risk of a soap which may not suit your skin, when the purest shaving soap is unquestionably "Erasmic."

BRITISH & BEST

"Erasmic" SHAVING STICK

BOOT POLISH FREE!

A liberal supply of splendid polish which saves time and money.

If you have not yet accepted a free supply of the wonderful Day and Martin Boot Polish, which preserves as well as polishes boots and shoes, you should send your name and address (a postcard will do) as directed below.

The free supply sent you will enable you to realise that Day and Martin's Boot Polish is most economical in use and needs only the least exertion to make the oldest footwear look like new. It never eats into the leather; in fact doubles the life of your boots and shoes. Your tradesman will be certain to stock Day and Martin's Boot Polish in tins at 3d., 4d., and 6d., black or brown. Refuse all substitutes, for there is nothing "just as good" as the polish made by this famous firm.

You will always keep the smart appearance of your footwear if you use Day & Martin's Boot Polish.

Send your application for your free trial supply direct to Room 24B, Day and Martin's, Borough Road, London S.E. Please state whether you desire black or brown polish when writing.

TENDER FEET!

Corns, Bunions, Wet, Perspiring and Inflamed Feet prevented and cured by wearing Dr. HOGYES SOCKS made of impregnated asbestos. Pair in any size sent post free for 7d. Better and more effective quality 1s. and 2s. GET A PAIR TO-DAY!!

Descriptive Pamphlet Free.

DR. HOGYES SOCK Co (Dept. O), 19, Artillery St., London, E.C.

Triumph

CYCLES AND MOTORS

Are built with the most painstaking care and skill, yet they cost no more than machines produced by cheap and oftentimes female labour. Cycles from £6 17 6 to £12. Motor Cycles from £48 15s.

Art Catalogues post free.

Dep. S. TRIUMPH CYCLE CO., LTD. COVENTRY.

London. Manchester. Leeds. Glasgow

Be Sure to Look at Outside Back Cover.

THIS 3-GUINEA SUIT MADE TO YOUR MEASURE FOR 30/-

Call or send for Free Patterns of the beautiful New Season Cloths.

READ FOLLOWING PARTICULARS OF THIS OFFER BY FAMOUS LONDON TAILORING FIRM.

A famous London tailoring firm is, during this month, offering a 3-guinea suit for 30s.

Note, it is not a 30s. suit for 30s., but a suit that other tailors will tell you is *a 3-guinea suit.*

Nor is it a "ready-made" suit, turned out to a set pattern. Each suit is made to your exact measure, and cut by a first-class West-End cutter, and possesses an individuality and distinction of its own. You cannot fail to look well-dressed in this suit. It is of the *latest London fashion,* and is *made of the finest and best-wearing British cloth and materials.*

The "REGO" HYDE PARK.

From the illustration of the "Rego Hyde Park" given here you can see how fashionable this suit looks. Although admirably adapted for the young man, it yet suits men of almost any height and age and gives to its wearer a fine appearance of manliness and strength.

The "Rego Hyde Park," will certainly be the fashionable wear during the Coronation Season, and if you want to be "in the fashion" this summer, you should take advantage of this money-saving opportunity to-day.

The "Rego Clothiers'"—their addresses are given below—have now on stock a magnificent range of splendid wearing and exceedingly handsome English and Scottish woollens, cheviots, cashmeres, serges, and other cloths for this suit. The new Coronation year designs are most attractive. Call and see these suitings for yourself or write for special selection of patterns to be sent you free.

MADE TO YOUR EXACT MEASURE FOR 30/- No Extras.

Ask or write at the same time for a free copy of "Fashions For Men," the great magazine which shows all the latest West-end masculine tailoring styles for the Coronation Year. It contains over 60 illustrations, and gives you all the latest information on clothes and fashion. Every man should read it. It is given or posted to you FREE.

This useful magazine with 60 illustrations free.

Arrangements have been made for the benefit of those JOHN BULL readers who do not live in London, whereby they can be measured and fitted with the latest fashionable clothes through the post, and yet be certain of complete satisfaction.

Call or write to-day for full particulars of the "Rego Hyde Park" 3-guinea lounge suit for 30s., and free cloth-patterns and presentation copy of the "Fashions For Men" magazine, to any one of the following addresses—

G. W. Rosenberg. (The "Rego Clothiers," Ltd).
(Dept. M), 122, Cheapside, London, E.C.

LONDON, E.C., 19 and 20, Aldgate.
LONDON, N., 681, Holloway Road.
LONDON, N., 265, Pentonville Road.
BRIXTON, S.W., 18, Atlantic Road.
BALHAM, S.W., 108, High Road.
CAMDEN TOWN, N.W., 183, High St.
CLAPHAM JUNCTION, 27, St. John's Road, S.W.
DEPTFORD, S.E., 3, Broadway.
FINSBURY PARK, 259, Seven Sister's Road.
HAMMERSMITH, W., 109, Kings St.
LONDON, W.C., 280, High Holborn.
LONDON, W., 288, Edgware Road.
ILFORD, 58, Broadway.
KING'S CROSS, 40, Caledonian Road.
KINGSLAND, N., 4, High Street.
KINGSTON, 24, Clarence Street.
PUTNEY, S.W., 31, High Street.
PECKHAM, S.E., 100, Rye Lane.
RICHMOND, S.W., 40, George Street
WALHAM GREEN, S.W., 14, The Broadway.

PARALYSED!

Unable to move Hand or Foot.
Declared incurable at a Hospital.

NOW QUITE CURED.

Mr. Sedgemore.

Mr. T. Sedgemore, Lyndale Cottage, Chapel St., Budleigh Salterton, South Devon, now called by everyone "The Salterton Miracle," writes:—"For 18 months I was completely helpless from spinal paralysis being unable to move hand or foot. No treatment did me any good, and I was sent into hospital, but despite all their efforts, I was declared incurable. Then I was carried home, but hearing of several remarkable cures by Dr. Cassell's Tablets, I began to take same. Almost at once a slight improvement took place, and in a few weeks I could move my limbs freely, and was taken out in a bath chair. Gradually, but surely, Dr. Cassell's Tablets strengthened me more and more, and now, to the amazement of everyone, am completely cured, and able to continue my work. People call me the 'Salterton Miracle'."

Dr. Cassell's Tablets are a perfect tonic remedy, guaranteed to cure all forms of nerve and physical weakness, spinal and nerve paralysis, loss of flesh, prostration, heart weakness, anæmia, general debility, organic weakness, children's weakness, and kidney and stomach troubles. Price 10½d., 1/1½ and 2/9 of all chemists.

Dr Cassell's Tablets
THE NEW FLESH-FORMER & STRENGTHENER

FREE BOX.
Cut out this coupon and send it with your name and address and two penny stamps for postage, &c., to Dr. Cassell's Co., Ltd., King St. W., Manchester, and you will receive a trial box free. *John Bull*, May 6.

WINCARNIS

PROMOTES

a delicious increase of health that makes the whole body tingle with

NEW LIFE.

Even the first wineglassful creates a definite and substantial degree of

RENEWED HEALTH,

and each succeeding wineglassful promotes and maintains

INCREASED VIGOUR

that fortifies the body and enables you to resist illness and regain a wealth of glorious health.

TEST IT FREE!

A liberal trial bottle will be sent on receipt of the coupon below.

Coleman & Co., Ltd.,
W 44, Wincarnis Works, Norwich.

Please send me a Free Bottle of "Wincarnis." I enclose three penny stamps to pay postage.

Name .....

Address .....

J. B. .....
May 6, '11.

JOHN BULL'S LETTER BAG.

[The Editor *replies to, and has a chat with, some of his numerous correspondents.*]

NOTICE TO CORRESPONDENTS.—Will readers, when sending cuttings from newspapers, take care that in each case a sufficient portion is sent to identify the name of the paper and the date of issue?

CORRESPONDENTS, when referring to previous communications which they may have addressed to us, should always mention the nature of the matter therein referred to. Owing to the great increase in the number of ENQUIRIES *received consequent upon the abnormal growth in our circulation, it is no longer possible to answer them all in "Letter Bag."* AND ONLY THOSE OF GENERAL INTEREST *will be noticed. The Editor will, of course, still be grateful for information, "biscuit" material, newspaper cuttings, etc.*

AUTHORS and ARTISTS *submitting MSS. and drawings for consideration must write name and address upon the back of their work. The Editor cannot accept any responsibility for the safe custody of MSS., etc., so forwarded, but will endeavour to return unaccepted work* WHEN STAMPED, ADDRESSED ENVELOPES ARE SENT FOR THE PURPOSE. ALL MATTER SUBMITTED MUST BE ORIGINAL UNLESS OTHERWISE STATED. *The most suitable lengths for articles and stories are about 750 words (one column), or 1,500 words (a page).*

The Editor *cannot express any opinion upon the value of postage stamps, old china, pictures, coins, books, etc.*

CORRESPONDENTS ARE REQUESTED NOT TO SEND ORIGINAL CERTIFICATES, TESTIMONIALS, ETC., as, *though every effort is made for their safe custody, they are liable to be mislaid. Copies only of such documents should be sent in the first instance; if inspection of the originals is required, a request will be forwarded to that effect.*

ANONYMOUS CORRESPONDENCE is increasing steadily. In future, we will disregard any letter which is not duly authenticated with name and address, which may be given in strict confidence.

FORWARDING LETTERS, ETC.—Our correspondence is growing so enormously that we have to discourage all idea of PUTTING OUR READERS INTO COMMUNICATION WITH ONE ANOTHER. *If the practice grew, we should want an extra staff of clerks, fresh offices, and Jim Crow to keep the peace.*

J. F. L., Junr. (Bacup).—What nonsense! How could the newsagent keep back copies with *winning numbers* unless he was gifted with second sight? It is to prevent the possibility of such a thing that we allow an interval to elapse before the numbers are announced. But in any case work has to be done for the money.

A. N. (Gorebridge) complains of *C. Anderson, commission agent, Flushing.*

G. J. (Caterham).—It is very wrong, but we are afraid *solicitors* are *privileged* to make unfair charges in court.

R. E. (Peckham) complains that the Yankees are ousting non-Yankees from the *Panama Canal works*, and that a Yankee with delirium tremens or some other disease is preferred to a competent "alien." He thinks there may be trouble when a drunkard is employed to drive a locomotive.

M. T. (Gort) wants to know how *grotesque cinematograph pictures* are obtained. People pose for them and then absurd speed is suggested by turning the handle quickly.

"Velocipede" (Edgbaston) offers £5 for a berth as *sub-postmaster*. He had better rush round to the Postmaster-General with his credentials.

H. W. J. (Poona).—It would be difficult to prevent *tipsters* sending out circulars, even if you did impose a special rate of postage.

"Army" (Pontypridd).—We offer no opinion about *alleged remedies*, and know nothing of the one you name.

J. N. B. (Dublin) wants to know why the name of an Irish reader never appears as a winner of *our weekly ballot*. Probably because Erin is never as lucky as she ought to be.

"Yak" (Southwark).—If the only alternative is that you must be either frozen or cooked in the *Government contractors' office* in which you and other clerks are engaged, complain to the sanitary inspector or post a respectful round robin to the head of the firm. A human being is not New Zealand mutton.

W. (Crosby).—Cannot tell you whether the *Old Age Pensions Act* will ever be altered to enable an English lady of 70, the widow of an Italian, who lived with her husband in England for thirty years, to obtain a pension. Seems hard cheese, however.

"Big Game" (Cape Town).—Perhaps, but "*shooting the moon*" would be more in his line.

"Mousey" (Spitalfields).—You are entitled to your opinion that "*piecework and overtime* are an absolute curse to this or any other country." Our opinion is that a worse curse is no work, no time.

F. P.—Just so; but if the *Salvation Army* did not beg they would get no money.

J. B. says the text in Saint Mark, "Go into all the world and preach the Gospel to every creature," is a spurious interpolation, and that *missionary enterprise* has therefore no Scriptural authority.

"Prudence" (Castleblayney).—Apply to the Royal College of Heralds for particulars of information needed for *grant of arms*. We are for the moment almost run off our feet.

F. H. (Hulme).—We can see no objection to the particulars required in the printed form for applicants for work at the *Labour Exchanges*. People who do not wish to answer them might.

"Shopper" (Jersey).—You are always liable to be called upon to give evidence if you make *statements to newspapers* which turn out to be unjustified libels.

"An Englishman" writes that, in country villages 40 years ago, if a grocer was caught giving *short weight*, he was burnt in effigy. Some grocers nowadays would regard that as a good advertisement.

S. K. (Tooting) is dissatisfied with a *County Court decision*, and certainly seems to have had summary treatment. Why not appeal?

"A Reader" (Egham) sends circular from the *Egham Chamber of Commerce and Property Owners' Association*, alluding to "tradesmen employing one assistant or less." Evidently an allusion to one-legged people.

H. W. (Cardiff) bought some *toothache powders*, and wants a biscuit for the directions: "One to be taken in sherry or water three times a day one hour before the expected attack of pain." We have had toothache, and seem to remember certain premonitory twinges.

P. G. (Penge).—Hard luck to be told to *move on* when you were only waiting for a job! Why don't they move on the crowds who obstruct the pavements outside theatres?

L. G. (Ashford) says disease has been spread among natives since *missionaries* persuaded them to wear clothes.

(*Continued on page* 734)

CLOTHES PHILOSOPHY

EXPENSIVE clothes are not always good clothes, neither are good clothes always expensive. What we mean is that it takes almost as long to cut a suit badly as to cut it well; in fact, often bad clothes take longer to cut than good clothes. So it is with the making of a garment. A good craftsman will produce a high-class garment in less time than it will take a mediocre craftsman to make an inferior garment.

The Curzon service has devoted years of study to the production of high-class artistic, distinctive tailoring at a minimum of cost.

Pure Wool Suits to Measure from 23/6 to 45/-
Our Coronation Blue Serge Suits warranted to withstand sun, sea and sodium. To measure, 27/6. Very marvellous value.

Our business has been established years, and is confined not merely to London, but extends to the Continent, South Africa, Canada, and Australia. We have clients and friends all over the world, men who realise what tailoring comfort means, and who have given us their unfaltering custom for years.

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"Big Hearted Briton" (Birkenhead) sends us a Postal Order for 2s. 6d., in the hope that fifteen other readers will subscribe a like amount for the benefit of *the Woolmore family*, upon whose treatment by the Ongar Guardians we recently commented.

"Reader" (London) sends us a communication from the *Highbury Furnishing Co.*, Upper Street, Islington, N., received in an open envelope bearing a ½d. stamp. It takes the shape of a form printed on official-looking blue paper, and headed in large red letters, "Final Affication," threatening proceedings for an instalment alleged to be in arrears, and ending, "You are running the risk of losing the furniture and forfeiting the rights of all rentals already paid, besides being summoned for the arrears of rent due." The Highbury Furnishing Co. evidently should be shunned.

C. J. S. (Tunbridge Wells).—Our exposures of *the Re-Ster Institute* appeared in the issues dated March 25th and April 8th, 15th, 22nd and 29th.

R. D. (Gravesend).—34 *black eyes* seems a large order, but presumably the lady did not receive them simultaneously.

"Disgusted" (Deal).—When girls talk like that, well, *young men should combine* for protection.

C. L. (Clacton-on-Sea) says he has also been defrauded by *Harry May* (*trading as Norman and Co.*). In the middle of February he forwarded £5 7s. 3d. for goods, but despite several letters, can get no reply. The Birmingham police say they consider Normans "dilatory"! and that they had extracted a promise that the goods would be forwarded on April 10th. But they have not turned up. May—on the other hand—replies to the complaint of the Trowbridge lady that the 10s. she sent was for goods not listed in his catalogue; that he explained this, but she has not requested the return of her money. He has convinced us that he is quite willing to refund this particular amount, and says that though he may be long over orders he has never defrauded anyone.

"Meteor" (Bayswater) offers Crow a sovereign if he can find an atom of dust in any of his rooms. He adds that "*co-operative boarding-houses* savour somewhat of Rowton House, where they chase edibles around a fire on the end of a long fork."

"An Englishman" says the man who allowed a "so-called lady" to be *annoyed at a picture-palace* must be an alien and "the Englishman is not born who would do such a thing." He thinks the churches are jealous of these shows, and that would account for the attempts to close them on Sundays.

E. J. (Commercial Road, E.) is "only a young Jewess," and wants us to defend her race against the strictures of the local press. But it can usually take good care of itself.

Miss G. S. (Shepherd's Bush) says she and her friends are neither old nor plain, but have never been *annoyed at Picture Palaces*, even when there alone. She thinks the lady, whose friend complained to us, must have been ogling her persecutors. We certainly do not want to give the Killjoys a handle.

W. H. H. (Margate) says a man has received 2s. a day for three years for trundling the local Hippodrome's advertising board through the streets. Now a police official wants to stop him because he is 64 years of age. The manager asked what the man should do for a living and the official replied, "Go to the Union."

"Bull-pup" (Willesden Green) tells of two *burglaries* at adjoining houses within a week. A police-whistle was blown, but no help came in time, and the local ladies are terribly alarmed. "Bull-pup" asks, "Are the police afraid of the dark or are they busy cuddling the cooks?" And as for the papers, "one is too busy following Miss Megan Lloyd George's movements and the others are too busy with politics to trouble what becomes of the people." Surely not.

A. McE. (Manchester) complains of being harshly treated in the employ of the *English Record Co.* (44, Bedford Row, W.C.).

R. W. B. (Leicester) complains of a firm trading as *Stuart*, 83, *Alfreton Road, Nottingham*, which seems to have advertised promises which it did not perform.

S. T. (Southampton) is most indignant at the remarks recently made by Father Vaughan about the Mormons. But surely "S. T." must know that the rev. gentleman always speaks his mind in his own way.

"Sergeant" (Wordsley) exposes the folly of the War Office in transferring the Brierley Hill Artillery to Stafford, and states that in consequence there are wholesale resignations. We never knew the War Office to do anything right. Be of good cheer, Sergeant; Viscount Haldane of Cloan will probably bring them back again next month. The same thing is happening in other districts.

H. C. G. (Westcliff-on-Sea) asks what name *Peter the Painter* put on the census paper and how he filled it up. But perhaps he has gone abroad for the sake of his health. H. C. G., like many correspondents, imagines we can always give an answer in our next issue. Alas, this is far from being the case.

"Customer" (Battersea) says his *baker charges different prices* to different people for the same bread. If this is not a question of the value of their credit, it should be made a matter of bargaining.

J. J. (Glasgow) read in our Bull's Eyes that a new *tobacco* was being *made from flowers* and wants to know where to obtain it. Why not be content with the weed?

T. R. (Devonport) is suspicious about "*Coronation free gifts*" offered by The Home Supply Agency, 66, High Street, Plymouth, who collect an "application fee" of 1d. in respect of a childish competition. Well, you get nothing for nothing, and precious little for 1d. nowadays.

"Actor" (Cork).—Add "perhaps," and then there would be. *A first-class light combine* was that of Charles Hoyt.

"A Reader" (Elstree) wants to know "the proper meaning of *the word murther*," as he fails to find it in his dictionary. He had better look it up in the more modern form of murder.

F. T. (Plaistow) says the Pimlico *Army Clothing Depot* used to pay 3d. a pair for making trousers, but that this has now been reduced to 2½d., which reduces many struggling workers to the verge of starvation.

Mrs. N. W. (Edgware Road) was at Marylebone County Court the other day and found 30 very poor women summoned after having fallen into the *clutches of tallymen*.

"Iky Mo" (Orpington) says that a *bookmaker, named Harry Rouse, Flushing*, could not pay up a few shillings last year, but is now sending out circulars again and talks of betting in hundreds of pounds. There is enterprise for you!

F. R. J. (Barnstaple) went to a Picture Palace the other night, and was disgusted to see a *Salvation "Army" man* permitted to appear *on the stage* and make a collection. He thinks he ought to be allowed to amuse himself in peace. Hear, hear!

[*We regret we are obliged to hold over a large number of replies.*]

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I would be three and sometimes four nights without a wink of sleep, and I dreaded the night coming, for I could not sleep in the daytime, but thanks to Phosferine, I am nearly all right and like my usual self, and *can walk a few miles every day*. I can honestly say Phosferine has saved my life."

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RACING NOTES.

By W. Lotinga.
("*Larry Lynx*" *of* The People, "*Double U. L.*" *of* Lotinga's Weekly, *and* "*Magpie*" *of* The Globe.)

The Right to Claim.

Mr. C. Atherton Brown is now quite a believer in the right of anyone to claim a horse running in a "selling," those who enter it recognising the risks run. This was brought about by the fact that when his sons began to ride, three or four years ago, Mr. Brown bought several platers for them to win on, and everything in turn was claimed from him—three in one week.

They Take Finding.

There is nothing more difficult to get hold of than a good horse, whether it be on the flat or for jumping. Of course there are a few cracks, and we hear much about them, little knowing what the luck or the expense has been, before a man has, possibly after years and years of trying, got hold of "something." When an owner does happen to possess a good horse, depend upon it he has both deserved it and been lucky.

Medley.

If horses only just top the fences six inches now, they are brought down, and in consequence owners won't put anything they care "two straws" about to the game.

It is unquestionably bad horses which do the most damage, either in injuring a jockey, creating troubles over the "settling," or being the medium of sensational objections.

Some of the reports of races, particularly in small local organs, are very, very funny. They usually agree that the horses were "all together at the start," give the most abrupt, extraordinary descriptions, and speak of horses winning by "about a head."

It is said the only way to get a really good, useful horse nowadays is to claim one—for winners make far too much. It is never practicable to buy a horse from anyone by private treaty.

Most owners and trainers, especially during their early days on the Turf and in the zenith of their success, become indifferent as to whether they win or lose. It is as they grow older that they get more cautious and are reluctant to "launch out" in case they lose seriously.

Prophetic.

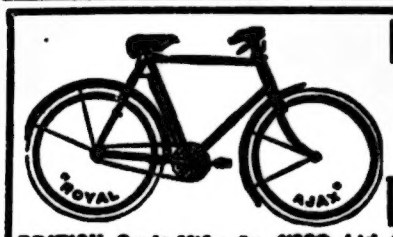
Just the tail-end of Chester, which must be governed by what has happened in the meantime, and the little odd day at Harpenden, before Gatwick rounds up the week, but here the chief handicaps have obtained very poor acceptances.

Poor Boy must run well in the Alexandra Handicap, for it would be terrible irony to be beaten by the "cast-off" Persuade, but the best thing of the meeting is

Himan

for Saturday's Prince's Handicap, as the two miles of this course will want staying, which is just the hurdle-racer's game. Of course, if Runnymede goes for the Marlborough Stakes he will get back the money he cost crowds of Americans in the Guineas, when he ran well.

At Haydock Park Sealed Orders can, and, I think, will, win the Manor Handicap if he half gallops, but the rest of the racing prior to Kempton we can look on at.



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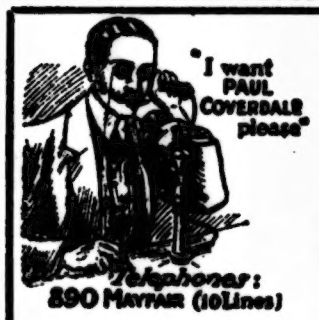

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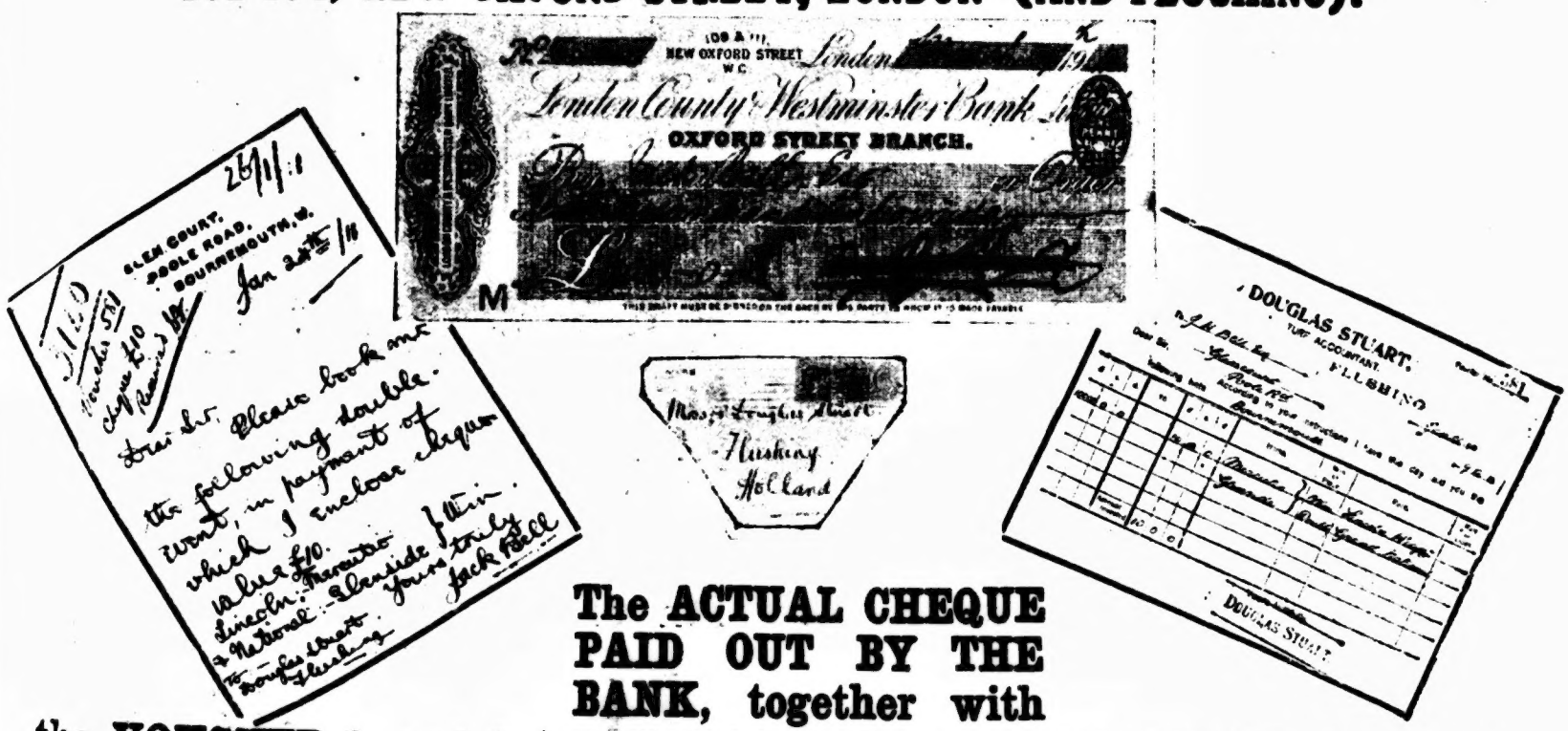

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